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# BELLGROVE CASTLE.

A ROMANCE.

LANE, MINERVA-PRESS, LEADENHALL-STREET.

# BELLGROVE CASTLE;

OR,

*THE HORRID SPECTRE!*

A Romance.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

*BY T. H. WHITE.*

VOL. IV.

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# BELLGROVE CASTLE;

OR,

# *THE HORRID SPECTRE!*

## CHAPTER I.

BY the advice of the baron and baroness, together with her own concurrence, Julia kept herself within doors for several days, during which period, she employed herself in various amusing studies, as also in those offices which she knew afforded entertainment to her foster parents. At length it became expedient for her to take the air, as her health appeared likely to suffer by a too rigid confinement.

It happened, one day, that she made an excursion in the carriage by herself, and coming into a road which took a winding direction, round an extensive field, alighted, telling the coachman to move slowly on till he should come to the stile which led into the lane, at the extremity of the field.

As Julia was proceeding on, enjoying the freshness of the air, and surveying the beauty of the country before her, she met a young woman, leading a beautiful boy, whom she recognized, on a close inspection, to be the little Henry, whom the doctor and Monimia had adopted as their charge.

Julia, with an eagerness, caught up the child, and almost devoured him with kisses.

She then, with a degree of impatience, enquired after the health of her much beloved friend, Monimia.

"Alas! madam," replies the girl, "my young lady has been ill a long time, and is now in so languishing a state, that her oldest acquaintance, at first sight, hardly know her again."

"What is her complaint?" cries Julia.

"We don't know, madam; but she has lost her appetite, is very low spirited, and hardly cares to take any amusement."

Julia heard this with a sigh; but it occasioned her no surprise. She considered her case as it really happened to be—an affair of the heart.

Julia and the maid continued in conversation till they arrived at the stile; when perceiving that the carriage was not arrived, she took out her pocket-book, and upon a slip of paper wrote a

very friendly billet to Monimia, requesting an interview with her the next day, in the same spot, and at the same time.

She then caressed her little favourite, and soon after, stepped into the carriage, and returned home.

Upon her arrival she debated whether she should inform the baroness of the incident she had met with, but at length determined to delay such a proceeding, till she had enjoyed an interview with her friend.

The next day, as Julia crossed the field, she observed some one sitting on the stile, whom she conjectured to be Monimia; she therefore quickened her pace, and at last, had the happiness of embracing her much esteemed friend.

The meeting was truly affecting.

"How happy am I to see you again, my dear Julia," cried Monimia; in saying which, a tear stole down her languid cheek.

"Not more so than I am," replied Julia, with a sigh, "to behold one, for whom I have preserved the most unceasing esteem."

The two friends now took a gentle walk across the field, and as they were alone, soon began to converse, without reserve.

"How cruel has our separation been," cries Julia; "no two hearts could find greater satisfaction in the society of each other; and to be so disunited by the insiduous shafts of calumny, is a woful circumstance."

Monimia continued pensive; she cast

her eyes on the ground, and seemed unwilling to make any reply.

"Say, my dear," continues Julia, "is it not a circumstance to be regretted, that two families of such worth and goodness should be separated by the diabolical artifices of some obscure miscreant; for I am certain, the mischief has arisen from some such cause."

Monimia, after looking very gravely, at length observed, "that the misunderstanding was equally as unpleasant to her, as unexpected; that it appeared like one of those cruel attacks upon domestic happiness, not uncommon in life, and which the best are liable to.

"I am happy, however," continued she, "in being conscious that no part of my conduct can, with justice, have contributed towards the overthrow of the happiest moments of my life."

Julia

Julia pitied her friend, as she saw the tear fall at the conclusion of this sentence, and exclaimed, not without some emotion, "I have the strongest hopes yet, my dear, that those happy moments will one day return; I heartily pray that this secret villainy, which has, alas, been too successful, may be detected, and meet its reward. I cannot forbear indulging the hopes, that two of my friends may again live in the delight of each other."

Julia had just touched the string, which was now become too weak to bear the sound. A faintness seized Monimia, and she was obliged to request the assistance of her friend, while she reclined against a tree, which stood near: after some little pause, when Monimia seemed to recover, she replied. "I know well, my dear Julia, the goodness of your heart; you delight in the happiness of your friends, but fate has forbid

bid the circumstance you hint at, by a combination of insurmountable accidents."

"I cannot look upon things in so serious a light," says the other; "there only requires a meeting of the parties, and then, I am sure, both sides would soon discover how egregiously they have been imposed upon.

"I will, the first moment I have an opportunity, exert myself to the utmost, to produce so happy an event."

"Stay, my dear friend, stay and withhold your benevolent purpose," cries Monimia. "I never solicit the countenance of those, whose friendship is too capricious to be relied upon; besides which, I have a pride here, pointing to her breast, from a consciousness of acting on the most virtuous principles, that will not suffer me to stoop

for

for notice, not even from the family of Bellgrove, so long as they are pleased to shew that aversion and indifference, which I have, in no part of my conduct, deserved."

"I do not blame you, my dear," replies Julia, "for entertaining a just opi nion of your own importance; but, as I observed before, I am convinced, the whole arises from a plot, put in execution by some perfidious monster, jealous of the purity of two such hearts as those of Monimia and Orlando."

"I cannot tell what to impute the change to," answers Monimia; "but I had been happier, if those who have chosen to deviate from their principles had assigned some reason for so doing. Mr. Bellgrove, I always thought, was incapable of duplicity; but—"

"Do not let resentment govern

 you,"

you," observes her friend; "he, I am sure, possesses too good a heart to trifle on serious subjects; and does, no doubt, entertain the same sincerity and affection as ever."

"That I cannot so well determine on," replies Monimia. "This reflection, however, affords me infinite satisfaction, that I have ever acted consistently with any partial behaviour I may have shewn him."

These amiable friends had now walked to and fro, till Monimia felt herself fatigued, and Julia thought it time to return. They cordially embraced each other, and the former retired to her abode, with a pleasing pensive sensation, which the conversation of the latter had inspired.

Julia had fully resolved on making the baroness acquainted with this interview,

view, the first favourable opportunity, choosing rather to hazard that lady's displeasure, than act in a clandestine manner towards her.

She, however, thought it necessary to await the period, when the baroness should appear disposed to bestow some unusual favour upon her; at which time, the kind Julia thought she could say enough to pave the way towards a reconciliation between the two amiable families.

Julia's heart overflowed with the hopes of accomplishing her point. It was the constant theme of her ideas, and she could hardly refrain from unburthening her mind to the baroness. A circumstance, however, was about to take place, which, she flattered herself, would be altogether auspicious to her design.

The baroness was to be alone on the

ensuing day, and expressed a wish that Julia would not engage herself out any where, as she intended to make some fresh arrangements in her wardrobe, and was desirous of her decision on the affair.

This was spoken in a way, which Julia construed as an intention of making her some present; in short, there was a very visible air of good humour about her protectress, which the former considered as ominous of the success of her undertaking.

The baroness was entertaining Julia with an account of her plans of amusement on the following day, when the baron rung his bell to summons the ladies to dinner, which was provided earlier than usual, as it was intended to pass the evening in some excursion about the surrounding villages.

The

The coach was ordered, in the first place, to proceed to a certain spot, where the company alighted, and after crossing a field, came to an eminence, on which, stood a beautiful summer-house, commanding a most extensive prospect.

The baron had caused this place to be erected, on account of the view, with which he entertained his friends, at any time, when the fineness of the weather made it inviting. Here they often resorted to drink tea, and pass the time in a variety of amusements.

Close by, stood two or three noble stacks of hay, the produce of the adjacent farm, which the baron kept in his own possession for amusement.

When the party arrived, they seated themselves, and soon fell into a very lively discourse; when, just as the baron

was

was entertaining his company with a diverting story, a deep hollow groan, which issued from somewhere near them, made him pause, and exhibit symptoms of surprise. For a while their amusement was suspended, and each bestowed a listening ear; but no additional sound succeeding, the baron resumed the subject, and the interruption was forgotten, in the glee which his conversation inspired.

After he had finished his story, their attention was taken up, in beholding a scene, which the baroness thought the richest in the whole prospect; and just as she had directed Julia to remark a cluster of tress, which bore a very singular form, a second groan interrupted their meditations.

"Surely, some person is dying, near this spot," cries Julia, with concern in her countenance; so saying, she was

just

just on the point of looking round for the sufferer, when the baroness advised that they should listen for the sound once more, for the purpose of marking minutely the spot from whence it came.

They sat sometime in awful expectation, but the groan was not repeated.

This circumstance threw a damp upon their entertainment, and after sitting about half an hour longer, they rose to depart, and took a circuit round the inclosure. As they passed the haystack, the baron stood to survey the largeness of their bulk and appearance, when a faint and hollow murmur, from a place, close by, threw them into a state of confusion and alarm.

"My dear madam," cries Julia, "this is the accent of some one in his expiring moments, and I think the unhappy person must be somewhere behind

hind these stacks;" on uttering these expressions, she passed round the further sides of the hayricks, and suddenly uttered a loud shriek.

The baron and his lady instantly came to her assistance; when, to their infinite surprise, between the stacks and the railing, they beheld a miserable looking wretch, apparently exhausted, and dying.

They now discovered the cause of Julia's affright, and seeing her pretty well recovered, directed their attention to the spectacle before them.

The baron gazed on him with compassion, but at the first seemed to hesitate to approach, upon which, the languishing wretch, in a faint voice, exclaimed,

" Be not alarmed, kind sir; but for the

the love of God, let me have some little assistance before I die." He could say no more; nature was exhausted, and he sunk senseless on the earth.

The baron thought he could not do better than send Julia to the carriage, with orders to drive immediately to the farm, and get assistance. This was effected in a little time, as the distance was but short; and the unhappy man was conveyed to that place, in a state, in which it was difficult to pronounce him either dead or alive.

As soon, however, as he evinced signs of life, the baron ordered a restorative cordial to be given him, which was, not without some difficulty, conveyed to his stomach.

After a considerable dose, he acquired sufficient strength to speak, and with wistful eyes, implored he might have the

the assistance of a clergyman in his last moments; particularly requesting the attendance and advice of Dr. Pritchards.

Though the unexpected mention of this gentleman occasioned in the baron and baroness some unpleasant sensations, they knew not how to refuse so solemn a claim, as a dying man's request.

After some deliberation, the baron consented, and the doctor was applied to for his presence on the occasion; who, with his usual compassion and alacrity, in a short time made his appearance at the farm.

When Dr. Pritchards arrived, he was surprised at beholding the baron and his family, no mention having been made, that it was at their intimation he had been sent for.

He

He retired a few steps on this discovery, and the baron and his lady exhibited a degree of stateliness on the occasion.

At length, the former recollecting one of the chief features of the religion he taught, threw off all reserve, and walking up to the baron, exclaimed, "I hope, my dear sir, upon so solemn an occasion as the present, both you and I shall forget every instance of animosity; a principle that ill becomes the ceremony we are about to be present at, and if there really exists a just cause for resentment on either side, I am very willing to enter into an amicable discussion of the merits of the affair, soon as we shall, in a christian-like manner, have rendered all the consolation in our power to the unfortunate individual, who has solicited my assistance and advice.

The

The baron was warmed by this candid and generous address; it disarmed him of every prejudice, and the two friends, as if by a momentary and sympathetic affection, shook hands, and immediately repaired to the sick man's chamber.

The sight of the doctor threw the unfortunate man into a sort of temporary convulsion, and upon his recovery, he burst out into some very awful exclamations against himself.

" I have been, sir, the agent of the worst of crimes; and my conscience is agonized with ten thousand tortures.

" Forgive me, good doctor; for amongst my manifold offences, I have been no small disturber of your peace."

The doctor looked surprised.

" O grant me the consolation, kind sir,

sir, of your forgiveness, which I can hardly hope for, after the injury done you."

The doctor recovering from the emotion he felt at the sick man's declaration, intreated him to explain.

" I have, sir, defamed the reputation of one, who never did me harm; and imposed upon you in the most reprehensible manner:" here the dying man paused, and the doctor manifested signs of impatience for him to proceed, the moment he was able.

" That letter," continued the man, which you found in the summer-house, was a forgery; I wrote it at the instigation of a person, who appeared to have great prejudice against your family, and that of the baron of Bellgrove."

The baron and the doctor gazed at each

each other with astonishment, but continued to listen to the unexpected tidings.

" I was also employed to write letters of slander to the baron, for the express purpose, as my employer told me, to create an effectual breach between the two families.

"But a suitable vengeance has pursued me; the pension I procured for my services has been witheld; a grievous infirmity has seized my body; and the pangs of remorse are become intolerable."

The doctor advised him not to despair, as his crime, though of a serious nature, was not an unpardonable one. " You have, it is true," continued the divine, " disturbed the peace of both families by such an offence—yet there is mercy for penitents of every description."

"There

"There can be none for such a wretch as me," cried the man, with great vehemence, "Murder, blood, and violence, forbid me to hope!—already have my remorseless deeds fastened on my soul, and cause me a foretaste of eternal torments."

Here the agonised wretch fell into the most violent execrations on his past life, and soon after sunk down in a swoon, a circumstance, which induced the company to quit the room.

When they had adjourned into another apartment, the most cordial congratulation took place between the parties on the discovery, though the state of the dying man's mind made a serious and solemn impression on their minds.

A very little conversation on the misunderstanding which had subsisted between the baron and the doctor, now produced

produced the most perfect reconciliation between them; harmony was restored, and both parties regretted they had been so precipitate in adopting an unfavourable opinion of each other.

In a little time, they resorted again to the chamber, and found the unhappy wretch venting his evil deeds in a tone of phrensy.

The doctor approached, and entreated the man to be calm, and make an unequivocal declaration of his crimes; upon which, the latter began to rave——"O, that spot! That fatal spot calls for vengeance on my head!"

He then continued to dwell, in strains of tortures, on some particular place.

The doctor tried the utmost to persuade him to be composed, and begin a confession of the whole that lay so heavy on his mind. At

At length, in a tremulous tone, and his whole frame in an uncommon state of agitation, he confessed—"That in a certain field, not far off from Horrordale Castle, lay the body of a person, he had been accessary to the murder of, and that a paper of great importance was concealed in the same spot."

It was, with great difficulty, the doctor could collect these particulars, which were, in fact, delivered in so wild and incoherent a way, that neither he nor the baron knew how to decide, whether they were the effusions of a delirium, or had their origin in reality, and matter of fact.

The doctor was of opinion, by the repeated accusations of himself, which fell from the man, that he had not divulged the whole of his crimes; he, therefore, attentively waited every opportunity by which he might obtain a

further confession, but in vain; the delirium increased, and they were obliged to call in assistance, to prevent his committing some act of violence on himself.

In such a state, both the baron and the doctor thought they could be of no present use to him.

They therefore withdrew, and after having conversed a little in an adjacent apartment upon the strange event they had just witnessed, left the strictest orders that the unhappy man should be treated with as much care and humanity as the case would admit.

The doctor then stepped into the baron's carriage, and in a little time was set down at the vicarage.

So great was the curiosity of that gentleman, and so earnest to come at the whole

whole of the dying man's story, that he attended at the farm in the morning, at an early period.

The baron was instigated by a similar impulse, and arrived at that place within a few minutes afterwards. The expectations of both were, however, finally checked, upon learning that the unhappy man had closed his eyes for ever. They were likewise informed by the attendants, that his delirium had increased to an ungovernable phrensy, which at length exhausted him, and he expired with expressions of horror and despair.

The baron gave orders to search the pockets of the deceased, and upon examination there was found a miniature picture, and a key of some small chest or cabinet; also a sheet of paper, containing a written declaration, but it was so defaced, that scarce a word could be

deciphered. From some expressions, denoting murder, it appeared like a confession, but its mutilated state forbade the spectators to discover the particulars.

The doctor gave orders for a decent interment, and soon after accompanied his friend to the castle, where they held a long conference, concerning what had been witnessed at the farm. It appeared, however, a decided point with them, that the delinquent had been the agent of some person of distinction, for particular purposes; and, when the baron ruminated on the contiguity of the spot, to Osmond's abode, and the depraved conduct the latter had exhibited towards Julia, he could not, altogether, acquit him as innocent of the transactions alluded to; at all events they resolved, on some future day, to examine the place which the deceased had identified in so extraordinary a way.

The

The baron, at the request of the doctor, took into his possession the picture they had discovered at the farm.

This he felt some satisfaction in accepting, as it bore, upon close examination, a strong resemblance to Julia.

A conceit of this kind was first suggested by the doctor, who, immediately on beholding it, discovered the resemblance, and shortly after imparted his opinion to the baron.

Upon a joint inspection they both agreed, and while conversing on the subject, the image of the unfortunate Louisa recurred, very forcibly, to the mind of the doctor, but there was a vivacity and spirit in the features of the portrait, which that lady was never seen to possess. He concluded, therefore, that it had never been intended for her.

 The

The baron debated a long time within himself how he should dispose of the picture, after the observation made by his friend of its resemblance to Louisa, that being the name announced by the supernatural voice, when Osmond made his attempts on Julia; at length he resolved to keep it concealed from Julia, as a discovery might only excite uneasy conjectures, which she was not in possession of, or in her power to satisfy.

The baroness coincided with him in this opinion, and it was immediately deposited in a drawer, where he preserved his own curiosities and articles he set a value on.

Matters were now completely compromised between the families at the castle and the vicarage, several visits had passed at both places, at which, all that union and mutual complacency that

marked

marked their former intimacy were renewed, and their esteem fixed upon a permanent and invariable basis.

There was, however, something wanting, to make the society equally animating; Monimia, in particular, though highly pleased with the reconciliation, felt a vacuum in all her amusements, which nothing but the enlivening presence of Orlando could remove.

Her affection for that amiable youth had returned with redoubled force since the discovery, while the sacrifice he had made to artifice and villainy, pained her inexpressibly.

Often would she give way to desponding ideas, while reflecting on his hazardous situation; and the fear of its eventually proving fatal, filled her with the greatest uneasiness and alarm.

These occasional meditations affected, in some degree, her spirits, and she found it necessary to use every personal effort to conceal her uneasiness from the company she was in the habits of associating with.

The absence of Orlando was, indeed, felt by all; and, so anxious were his parents to see him again, that the baron, in conformity to the wishes of his lady, dispatched a letter to him, requesting, if consistent with his honour, an immediate return; describing, at the same time, the particulars of the event that had happened.

This was a measure that gave infinite satisfaction to all his friends, as it afforded them the pleasing expectation of once more enjoying his amiable presence and conversation.

The young ladies had now an opportunity

tunity of unbosoming themselves to each other, without reserve; and the return of mutual intercourse was an event, in which they both experienced inconceivable delight.

Between Julia and Monimia there subsisted such a sameness of taste and sentiment, as united them in the strongest ties of attachment.

They appeared to have but one fancy in the choice of their various occupations or amusements, and whatever was selected by the one, was adopted by the other.

In such a unison of souls, did the two amiable friends spend a great part of their time; and though their conversation was, in general various, the two gallant heroes became the principal themes of their discourse.

Such was the influence that the image of Orlando had upon the two families, that they scarce ever met, but he became the leading topic, and the day of his arrival was looked upon as an event that would make their happiness complete.

Some time after, as they were conversing about their absent friend, the baron apprized the company, that the anniversary of Orlando's birth-day was near, and intimated that he should expect the pleasure of their attendance on such an occasion

This was assented to with satisfaction, and Orlando's natal day was celebrated with the greatest joy and festivity.

In the course of their entertainment, the baron and the doctor amused themselves with a conversation on antiquities;

ties; and the former, by way of illustrating his discourse, incautiously directed Julia to bring down a cabinet of curious medals which he had preserved with the greatest care, and collected at a considerable cost.

Julia was gone so long, that the baron concluded she could not find them; at length she made her appearance, but so pale and weak, as gave some alarm to the company. The baroness immediately ran to her assistance, and placing her in a chair, began to make use of means of recovery.

When she came a little to herself, Julia exclaimed, "O, that picture!" and was upon the point of fainting a second time.

The baron now recollected his absence of mind in sending Julia to the very spot, which he intended should have

been wholly kept from her view; and was hurt, at seeing the ill effects it had produced.

When she was thoroughly recovered, the baroness observing much curiosity in the company to survey the object of her indisposition, proposed that the portrait should be brought into the room for that purpose, to which Julia gave consent, shewing a tender, yet timid curiosity, to behold again the cause of her recent emotion and surprise.

When the picture was produced, Julia flew to gaze on what had so interested her feelings; and after conning it with an eager and melancholy aspect, exclaimed, "This is, indeed, the picture of my unhappy sister; good Heavens! by what unaccountable occurrence has it found its way to these parts?"

Just

Just as she uttered these words, Monimia gave a deep sigh, and pronounced the portrait, upon a minute examination, to be the representation of little Henry's mother. This assertion produced a very interesting embarrassment on the part of her friend.

Julia exclaimed, with emotion and surprise, "Good Heavens! Monimia, was there, indeed, a resemblance? Pray tell me, continued she, in a tremulous tone, what was the name of your friend?"

"Bellamy," replied Monimia.

"Her married name, I suppose," enquired Julia.

"Yes," replied the other, "and her maiden name was Woodville."

"Heavens preserve me!" cries Julia; "this

" this was, indeed, no other than the unfortunate Louisa Woodville, my unhappy sister."

Here the tender and amiable girl burst into a flood of tears, which were a seasonable relief to her, as she was on the point of sinking into a fit; after which, she alternately gazed on the portrait, and the child whom she now caressed, with the fondest embraces, exclaiming; at the same time, " Alas! my angel, Providence will, I hope, shield you from your mother's adverse fate."

A settled gloom now took possession of the whole company.

They sympathized in the most feeling manner with the sufferings of poor Julia, who was just initiated into a discovery, which tended to make her wretched. She, however, possessed the good sense of exerting herself, to avoid throwing

throwing a total check on the amusement of her companions; who, however, quitted her with regret, at sight of the emotion the discovery had occasioned her.

In the course of the evening, when Julia and Monimia's absence would admit, the unfortunate Louisa became the subject of conversation; and her sudden disappearance, with the probable event that ensued on such an extraordinary occasion, drew tears from their eyes.

The time had elapsed that gave hopes of intelligence concerning her, and every sentiment, on so remarkable a transaction, seemed only to inspire thoughts of the most gloomy and alarming description; while the tear of pity fell plenteously from the eyes of those who had witnessed her lovely and amiable perfections.

The

The person of little Henry became now more and more interesting to all who knew him; as to Julia, she knew not how to be sufficiently lavish of her caresses; she requested to take him entirely under her protection, and in the most tender and respectful manner urged her claim to that effect.

This was a trial to Monimia, who doated on the child, but it was a request she could, by no means, refuse. The sense she entertained of the strong affection that naturally attracted Julia's attention to the boy, made her instantly resign every pleasure she experienced in having him under her own care.

At length, however, the affair was compromised between the two friends, with the assurance that Monimia should receive occasional visits from her little friend, who would be permitted, at different periods, to take up his abode at the vicarage.

We

We consider Henry now as an inmate of the castle, where he soon became no small favourite; both the baron and his lady viewed him with an eye of tenderness and compassion. His orphan state was a sufficient claim upon their pity; in addition to which, he evinced such winning and engaging qualities, as were sure to excite the love and admiration of all who knew him.

While the baron and baroness felt increasing regard for the child, Julia knew no bounds to her affection; yet it was a love, not unaccompanied with interruption: often, while intently gazing on him, she would recognize Louisa's features, a reflexion, that oppressed her with the most painful dejection, as often as it occurred.

Julia now felt an earnest desire to learn by what means her sister had obtained an acquaintance with Monimia; and

and though she feared the recital would have a painful effect upon her mind, could not restrain, one day, from making the enquiry.

Monimia complied, but touched very slightly upon the sufferings Louisa had endured.

Julia, from every occurrence, was now satisfied that it was her sister who had resided at the vicarage, and experienced the most pungent regret at not having made a visit there, at a time when she could have beheld her.

Some little time after Henry had been at the castle, a circumstance happened, that threw the family there into a temporary alarm.

The servant had been out with him, and in the course of the walk, met a person of an ill look, who attempted to force

force his conversation on her, and every endeavour to get free from him, proved ineffectual. He expressed a wish to carry the child for her, which she refused, thinking, from his manner and behaviour, that he had no good intention.

The stranger, at last, became quite rude, and even made a snatch to get him from her; upon which, she screamed aloud, and somebody coming to her assistance, the villain fled into the wood, close by; after which, she heard two men conversing in there, expressing great animosity against some person, whose name she did not hear mentioned.

The maid returned quite ill with her fright, and her account made a very uneasy impression on the family.

This instance of fresh hostilities set the

the baron upon reasoning on the cause or motive of such acts of prejudice to the peace of his family.

He at length brought himself to the conclusion, though conscious of his having given no provocation, that there was some latent foe, whose aim was to give a fatal blow to his happiness. Influenced by such an opinion, he consulted the doctor upon the best means to frustrate so mischievous a purpose, who expressed much surprise at what had happened, acquiesced in the sentiments of his friend, and advised, that a strict and numerous watch should be posted in all the recluse places that stood adjacent to the castle.

This precaution was instantly adopted, and had nearly been attended with success, as they surprised too ill-looking fellows, who were lounging in the neighbourhood, but who taking to their heels,

heels, were too quick in their motions to be apprehended.

It was thought expedient, at the same time, for Julia and her nephew to keep within the castle for a stated time, a circumstance which in no wise distressed the former, as her apprehensions were considerably heightened for the welfare of the child; and she knew he would be perfectly secure, by conforming to such a proposal.

Julia was far from being melancholy in her retirement; she was of an active turn, and could in a moment disperse uneasy thoughts, by application to her various amusements; in addition to which, her inestimable friend was unremitting in her visits, with whom Julia passed the hours in the most agreeable and engaging conversation.

After a month or two had passed in the

the most vigilant search after the offenders, and every caution had been used to guard against a second surprise, Julia was permitted by her friends to take the air; she however felt a degree of timidity in her first excursion, and looked about her with alarm and apprehension.

Henry was become dearer to her, if possible, since this meditated act of violence, and she was unhappy the moment he was out of her sight. The fate of his unfortunate mother pressed heavily on her mind, and she was determined to use every means in her power to prevent his being made a similar sacrifice.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER II.

THE baron and his lady, in order to make Monimia amends for her loss, invited her to a few weeks residence at the castle. This the doctor consented to, and the two friends felt the highest satisfaction in the prospect of an uninterrupted round of conversation with each other.

This visit was particularly gratifying to Julia in another respect, as a day or two after Monimia came, little Henry was seized with an alarming illness, a circumstance which occupied their incessant attention.

Julia and her friend scarce ever stirred from the bed-side :—they watched with the greatest anxiety, the various turns of the disorder, but saw nothing to flatter them with the hopes of a recovery.

A whole week did this little sufferer lay, without one symptom in his favour; and his affectionate attendants concluded he would fall a victim to his distemper.

The uneasiness of both, on this occasion, was inexpressible; and Julia, at length, found herself on the point of being deprived of the last vestige of her unfortunate family.

The baron and baroness were likewise seriously apprehensive of fatal consequences from the disorder, and they expected, with the deepest concern, an event, which would bereave them of so engaging a companion.

Monimia and Julia sat up every night

with

with their little patient, and to beguile the time, usually took a book, and alternately read to each other.

It happened one night, as they were unusually attentive to the subject, they were disturbed by a very uncommon interruption.

Just as the castle clock had tolled out in solemn peals the last vibration of twelve, a sudden flash of light darted across the window, and repeated its motion several times, till at length, it attracted the notice of the two friends, who immediately flew to the casement to discover the cause of it; but, after continuing some minutes on the spot, they could observe nothing that appeared likely to produce what had so recently alarmed them.

They therefore retired to the bed-side without dwelling much on the circumstance,

stance, and observing the child likely to sleep the remaining part of the night, soon betook themselves to their repose.

Scarcely had they got into bed, when a repetition of the light threw them into a second consternation.

Monimia and Julia immediately rose from the bed and applied to the window, where they remained a few minutes, without observing any particular object.

At length, the moon emerging from an immense cloud, which had thrown a darkness over the whole scene, discovered to them the figure of a man, who had crossed the garden to a spot nearly opposite to where they stood;

He was muffled up in a manner that denoted disguise, and by very minute attention they observed a mask on his face.

Upon

Upon the first discovery of this object, they retreated a few steps, and drawing a blind across the window, stood concealed from notice; at the same time were enabled to watch the motions of the intruder.

They had not surveyed him long, when, to their surprise and dismay, they beheld him taking a critical survey of the whole building, and soon after he was attended by two or three men, in disguised habiliments, who seemed to shew him every token of respect and obeisance.

After which, they directed a very minute attention to the identical window where they were standing, which so alarmed the two friends, that they resolved not to go to bed during the night.

Their fears, however, were somewhat

 abated,

abated, by observing these midnight visitants soon quit the spot.

Monimia and Julia could not conceive what could be the design of these invaders; they however could not construe their visit as having any good purpose, therefore barred the windows of the chamber, and set about securing all the doors which led to their apartment.

Thinking all was safe, they now altered their resolution of sitting up the remainder of the night, and retired to bed, where they had not long been, before every recollection of what had happened was lost in a profound sleep.

The circumstance that had happened, however, produced very uneasy sensations in the minds of both; Julia, in particular, was distressed with a very uneasy

uneasy dream, from which she awoke, sustaining a load of horrors.

'She thought somebody drew back the curtain of the bed—it was a pale, ghastly figure, in female apparel, who sighed and shook her head, then unbared her bosom, from which she plucked a dagger drenched in gore, while from the deep wounds in her breast issued streams of blood.

'She advanced to embrace Julia, took hold of one of her hands, and pointed to the window; then removed the bed-clothes and hung over little Henry, gazing on him with inexpressible fondness.

'She now retreated, and pointing alternately to Heaven and to the child, in a solemn hollow tone of voice bade Julia adieu, and disappeared.'

Julia awoke with a shriek, the sound of which roused Monimia, to whom she related her dream.

At this narration the latter uttered a groan, and exclaimed, "Good Heavens preserve us! I fear some secret enemy is about to annoy us."

The two friends found themselves so disconcerted by such disagreeable experience, that they could not obtain any degree of composure during the night, but rose quite dispirited; and when at breakfast, their uneasiness was visible to the baron and baroness, who enquired the cause.

Julia related the circumstance of the man in the garden—the baron started, and pronounced it a very extraordinary circumstance; and which, he was determined to investigate: for this pur-

pose,

pose, strict search was made in that place, but not the least track or impression appeared.

The effect which Julia's dream had made upon her, was such as could not easily be effaced. She felt a dread on laying down to rest; the awfulness of the vision had impressed her mind with a portentous idea of something dreadful; added to which, there was a train of meaning in the gesture of the spectre, which seemed to allude to some awful event.

A few evenings after the dream she was sitting up, perusing a favourite work—Monimia had retired about half an hour, and the most solemn stillness prevailed in the castle; all on a sudden, she was disturbed by a deep groan, which seemed to proceed from the passage leading to the room she was in.

Julia felt herself inspired to search for the cause, and soon as she opened the door, observed a twinkling light, which threw a side-way kind of glimmer into the passage before her.

She advanced, with the intent to see who was in possession of the light, and turned round an avenue, in expectation of making a discovery; but in proportion as she advanced, the light gradually retreated, as if disposed to lead her into the various windings of the building. She arrived at length at a spacious room, where the light appeared to pause---the door was on a jar---Julia pushed it gently aside, but what was the agony of her feelings, on observing a female figure in deep mourning, who beckoned her to advance. Julia was inspired at this moment with more than human fortitude; she obeyed the mandate, when the spectre conducted her

her to a kind of hall adjoining the room they had just left: this was called the picture gallery, in which hung the various portraits of the descendants of the family. Close to the baron and baroness were delineated the figures of Orlando and Osmond.

The spectre now made a stand, exactly opposite to that which represented the latter, while Julia stood in an attitude of intreaty to know the will of the apparition; who pointing to her breast, and then at the picture, shook her head, and uttered a deep sigh. Julia still kept following the ghost, who discovered to her such scenes of woe, that she became, at last, insensible, in which state, Monimia at length found her; who supposing something remarkable had happened, came in pursuit of her.

The two friends retired, not a little disconcerted at the repeated catastrophies which had happened.

Julia was nearly recovered from her alarm in the course of a few days, but exhibited an air of melancholy that gave no small uneasiness to her friends. Monimia, at the same time, feeling all the sympathy for Julia which a good heart will entertain on so solemn an occasion.

The affliction which the latter laboured under, was a sort of prophetic sadness; a solitary impression on her mind, that she was soon to learn the real fate of her unhappy sister.

A few days after, Monimia and Julia paid a visit to the vicarage.

The carriage was appointed by the baron to convey them there. The ride was pleasant, and little Henry looked out of the coach window with an unusual degree of admiration at the objects which appeared.

They

They proceeded down some bye lanes, and stopped at a certain part, to admit the passage of a cart that was coming in an opposite direction; at this period, a person, habited like a fortune-teller, put a piece of paper in at the coach window, Monimia opened it, and read the following caution:

" Fair ladies, timely take alarm,
" A friend would save you from all harm;
" Some mischief you will shortly know,
" Unless you wisely shun the blow;
" View strangers with a cautious eye,
" And their advances quickly fly."

As soon as they had read the paper, they looked round for the person who presented it, but their counsellor had fled, and left them in no small surprise at such an alarming and unexpected an adventure.

Julia knew not how to construe this train of singular events; it was a painful

thing for her to be ever on the alarm, yet her opinion of the matter was perfectly in unison with that of Monimia, who apprehended some lurking mischief against the family.

The ladies now thought of returning, under the influence of such a sentiment; but they had scarcely resolved upon such a proceeding, when the carriage was intercepted by a chaise-and-four, and received such a shock, as overturned it.

The company within sustained very little injury, though considerable alarm.

Two gentlemen, who were in the chaise that occasioned the injury, immediately stepped out, and offering the most respectful apology, attempted to render every assistance in their power; at the same time, severely reprimanding the carelessness of the drivers.

They

They requested the ladies to make use of their carriage as far as they were going; this was declined by them, as the distance was but small to the vicarage.

The gentlemen then insisted on seeing them on their way, and at the same time exhibited such politeness and affability, that the petition was, at length, consented to.

In a little time the ladies paid their respects to the doctor, and the gentlemen explaining the motives of their appearance, were received by him with the most sincere friendship and cordiality, and requested to pass the evening at his abode.

In about an hour after, the merchant and his family arrived, and the company were not a little interested in the unexpected congratulations which took place

place between Mr. Beaumont and one of the strangers who accompanied Monimia and her friend. They saluted each other, and soon made it evident that they had been ardent friends.

The gentleman warmly congratulated the merchant, and said, next to the happiness of seeing him, he had an affair to communicate, which gave him infinite pleasure. The former then apprized the latter that a very considerable property was bequeathed him, by a relation in the East Indies.

Mr. Beaumont received the tidings with a mixture of pleasure and regret; and the affair being announced to the company, he was complimented in the most friendly manner; and no one evidenced greater satisfaction than the doctor, who long had wished to see his friend reinstated in his former degree of opulence and dignity.

The

The ladies stopped at the vicarage, till Julia reminded her friend it was proper to return; and the gentlemen, apprized of their intention, insisted on the honour of seeing them home.

The chariot was immediately ordered, and the party proceeded in a brisk pace to the castle.

They had not, however, gone far, before they were surprised by a band of ruffians, who insisted upon the women and Henry's alighting.

The protectors of the ladies attempted a rescue, but nothing could intimidate the assailants; who being well armed, made a furious attack upon their opponents, and instantly dragged them from their position, and after stunning them with repeated blows, carried off their captives in triumph.

Monimia and Julia shrieked aloud, and imagined, at one time, that their efforts had brought some persons to their assistance, as the carriage halted a few moments, and a confused noise of voices was heard; but their hopes soon fled, as they proceeded on a sudden with redoubled speed, and were commanded, in a stern voice, by those who had the custody of them, to be silent, on peril of their lives.

After travelling about three hours, they made a sudden stop, and the ladies were ordered to alight. Julia clasped the boy to her breast, and no intreaties could prevail upon her to surrender him. The ruffians threatened violence, but Julia protested she would rather part with her life, than be separated from him.

They were now conducted through several

several windings, and at last came into a room, where their guides left them, after taking great pains to secure the door, and making every preparation to prevent escape. In a short time, however, they heard some one approach, who, on entering, discovered a thick, squat-looking figure, having every appearance of malignity and ill-nature in her looks.

In a tone of voice, which made her prisoners start and tremble, she demanded what refreshment they chose; but the two friends were so alarmed and pensive, that they scarcely attended to their unmannerly visitor, who in a still more hoarse and sullen note exclaimed, "Do you choose any refreshment, or not?" Monimia intreated her to be a little milder in her accents, but this only served to aggravate the virago, who in reply vociferated, "Come, come, let's have no tragedy airs here,

I know

I know the trick too well; you pretend to be quite averse to every thing, and yet, no doubt, have made this visit from your own choice."

The unfortunate females protested that it was by violence they had been brought into their present situation; and Monimia, holding out her purse, intimated to the woman the contents were her's, if she would connive at their escape.

" Aye, my dear, that's very right," replied the latter, not seeming to notice it as a bribe, " as you will not have occasion for money here, you may as well commit it to my protection." And marching up to Julia at the same time, exclaimed, " Perhaps, miss, you are disposed to put the same confidence in me; that ring on your finger shall be taken great care of, I assure you."

Poor

Poor Julia was so alarmed, that she instantly complied, and surrendered it to the jezebel.

The woman now altered her tone, and began to practise all the dissimulation she was mistress of.

" Come, come, ladies, don't be disheartened, the place is strange to you, but comfort yourselves that you will be at liberty soon : and now, my dear, addressing Julia, you had better let me relieve you of the fatigue you have had with the child."

Julia was terrified at the proposal, but durst not absolutely deny her; however, she was resolved not to trust him out of the room.

When the woman took hold of little Henry, the child screamed most violently, and exhibited such terror, as offended

offended the beldam; who setting him down, abruptly exclaimed, "Well, if you don't choose to come, you may let it alone."

The ladies soon saw clearly they had got an odd sort of creature to deal with, and determined, in consequence, to lean entirely to that side her humour seemed inclined, and found, by so doing, that they obtained an influence over her, which no other means could effect; in short, by a few innocent artifices, they became quite social with her, and while partaking of some refreshment, felt no small pleasure from the hopes of once more returning to their home.

The next day the old woman had ingratiated herself so far into the good graces of Monimia and Julia, that they began to think they had gained her confidence, and talked with her without reserve;

serve; and at length a plan was agreed upon, relative to their departure, the conditions being, that the ladies should be quite still and silent, at the time of their removal.

This was most cordially assented to, still the two friends were far from enjoying repose—their minds were tortured with suspence—doubt and hope succeeded each other, and produced a conflict, which occasioned a total interruption to their rest.

In the morning they partook of coffee, and were persuaded, after much intreaty, to permit the old woman to accompany them part of the way.

After travelling some distance, Monimia and Julia found themselves drowsy; a circumstance, which they considered as arising from want of rest the preceding night, and to which, they did

not

not seem disposed to make any resistance; when their companion beholding their condition, took the child into her arms, by way of assisting their slumbers.

The ladies, upon waking, found themselves so confused, and for a while could not tell what had happened; at length Julia, as it were by instinct, exclaimed, "Where is my sweet cherub?" and upon feeling about the coach, for it was now dark, to the infinite terror and confusion of both, they found none in it but themselves.

Monimia exclaimed, "O, Heavens! to what wretchedness are we doomed?" and Julia raved in the wildest manner on the unhappy fate of little Henry.

After venting their sorrow in sobs and the most piteous lamentations, they flew to the windows, and screamed for

protection,

protection, but their efforts were vain; the violators of their liberty having fastened them down, to prevent alarm or escape.

Julia and her friend now embraced each other in an agony, considering themselves as devoted to some dreadful and unhappy purpose.

While the two friends were bemoaning their situation, on a sudden they found their pace considerably briskened, and soon after, a violent knocking at a gate ensued, which was immediately opened, and shut again with the noise of thunder.

The carriage now stopped, and the door was opened by some attendants, who requested the ladies to alight.

Monimia and Julia descended, in a state of terror and agitation, and before they

they entered the building, fell on their knees, and implored the pity of those around them.

This application was treated with the greatest indifference, and the unfortunate prisoners observing the domestics increase and hover round them, as though they intended violence, without further remonstrance, suffered themselves to be conducted into the building.

After traversing various windings and avenues they arrived at a room, something like a hall, in which were two or three men, whose countenances made Julia and Monimia tremble; and who appeared to be in some serious and eventful conference.

As the unfortunate females passed, these ruffians viewed them with an eye that denoted mischief; a circumstance, which

which did not escape the observation of the former, who saw themselves advancing into an increasing state of misery and horror.

They were, at last, conducted into a stately and magnificent apartment, and were requested by the attendants, who shortly after retired, to be seated.

Monimia and Julia were not a little surprised at the singular mode they used in leaving the room, each retreating through a separate door-way.

The terrified females now felt a mournful suspense, and every now-and-then cast a timid and suspicious look about the room, fearful of beginning a conversation; yet, at times, communicated their apprehensions in a whisper.

They had not, however, sat long, before the sound of footsteps approaching

ing the apartment, led them to expect some sudden surprise; immediately a door opened, and to their astonishment, Osmond, accompanied by a man of a most forbidding appearance, entered the room.

These visitants no sooner arrived, than they treated Julia and her friend with the greatest boldness and familiarity.

Osmond began, by taking hold of Julia's hand, and exclaiming, "You know, my dear, I have long wished you should do the honors of my family, and after the pains I have taken to procure me that happiness, you cannot use me so unkindly, as to hesitate a moment."

Julia withdrew her hand with disgust; a sort of instinctive aversion since her late mysterious experience, made her look upon him with abhorrence.

"Osmond,"

"Osmond," cries she, looking at him with disdain and resentment, "can you call yourself a woman's friend, in thus forcibly conveying us from our homes, and adding these insults to the outrage?"

"Pshaw, pshaw, my dear," cries Osmond, "I vow you are quite peevish, not to say a little insolent."

"Such conduct as you have shewn," replies Julia, "can never be entitled to respect. Renounce this authority you have assumed, and convey us instantly home, as the only means of atoning for your crime."

"That cannot be, my dear. I cannot be so great a foe to my happiness."

Julia made no reply, and Osmond, for a few moments, sat in a state of silence. In the mean time, his compa-

nion was cruelly tormenting the ears of Monimia with the most gross and fulsome discourse, while the latter felt all the distress and embarrassment natural to delicacy and dignity of mind.

In a short time Osmond renewed his importunities, which were rejected with contempt; a circumstance, that had more than once roused his haughty and imperious passions: but as a consummate hypocrite, he checked his impetuosity, and finding familiarity of no avail, was determined to try a more reserved and distant conduct. He therefore apologized for the offence he had given, assuring her that he would, the next day, see her safe on her way to the castle—intreated her with the most urgent persuasions, that she would, for the present, be reconciled to her situation.

This manœuvre succeeded, and Julia condescended, upon such terms, to enter

ter into a little conversation, and take some refreshment.

Monimia was influenced to follow her example, upon a promise from her persecutor that he would withhold his addresses.

Osmond was now not without hopes that he should succeed in his projects, but he confided principally in the potency of the article he had caused to be mixed in the wine for the accomplishment of his purpose, and took an opportunity, at times, to recommend the glass to the ladies to relieve their fatigue.

Julia and her friend found it expedient to comply, as far as prudence would allow; and Osmond congratulated himself with the hopes of his stratagem speedily taking effect, but every mo-

ment seemed only to increase his disappointment.

Chagrined at this defeat, he drank off a copious draught, and recommended the same example to his friend.

Astonishing and unexpected were the effects which this conduct produced.

In a few minutes the ladies saw an unaccountable alteration in the appearance of those with whom they were in company. A sort of slumber seized Osmond and the other—their eyes closed—and they fell on the table, in a fit of insensibility.

This affair, which would have appeared very alarming on any other occasion, inspired, instantaneously the friends, with hopes of escape.

Without waiting, therefore, to inspect

spect the condition of Osmond and his friend, they each seized a candle, and wildly quitted the room, in hopes of extricating themselves from their confinement.

 CHAP.

## CHAPTER III.

WE shall now return to the disconsolate people at the castle. An hour had passed beyond the time the ladies had promised to return; and as they were always very punctual, their delay gave no small uneasiness to the baron and his lady.

The lapse of another hour produced very considerable alarm, and they dispatched messengers in every direction to gain intelligence of them.

After some time had elapsed, one of them

them returned, conducting two gentlemen. These were no other than the heroes who had endeavoured to preserve Monimia and Julia.

They gave the baron a circumstantial account of the adventure; who, with the baroness, received the intelligence with the deepest affliction.

The gentlemen received every polite attention at Bellgrove Castle, and were pressed to stay the night; an invitation which, in their infirm state, was highly agreeable to them.

The next day they departed, highly pleased with the hospitality they had been treated with, and promising every assistance in their power to bring to justice the perpetrators of the outrage on Monimia and Julia.

The day after the baron revolved the

whole of the disagreeable surprises he had met with, and a very little reflexion raised in him a violent suspicion that it was Osmond who was the disturber of his peace.

This opinion operated so strongly upon him, that he was determined to proceed to Horrordale Castle in pursuit of the lost females.

In a conference which he held with the doctor, a coincidence of opinion prevailed, and a travelling equipage was ordered to be got ready immediately, into which they threw themselves, and proceeded with all imaginable speed to the place above-mentioned.

The baroness was left quite disconsolate, and such an effect had the total absence of her friends upon her, that she kept her bed the greatest part of the day.

Towards

Towards evening she rose, in rather a languid state, to take some refreshment; and while musing on past events, was interrupted in her reveries by the appearance of old Peter, who with an uncommon degree of animation in his countenance, begged to have the honour of announcing some very agreeable intelligence to his lady.

The baroness was nearly offended with the abrupt behaviour of her old servant, and was about to chide him for his rudeness; but the faithful creature bursting into a flood of tears, intreated her to forgive his transports, as it was the happiest day he had ever known in his whole life.

The lady intreated him to explain his sudden visit.

" To inform you, madam, that my young master---"

"Your young master!" exclaimed the baroness, with vehemence and surprise—"say what of him."

"He is arrived safe." Heaven be praised, ejaculated Peter; "and is now in the house, and saving my lady's presence, i'll go and take another look at him;" so saying, Peter ran with such alacrity out of the room, that he made his master recoil, who was just about to enter, while the old man measured his length on the floor, uttering the most piteous groans; however, he soon recovered himself, and sprang down stairs with the same degree of glee and agility.

The interview between Orlando and his mother was very affecting, and after the first emotions of joy were over, he, in a tone of inexpressible affection, inquired for his father.

The

The baroness looked gloomy, and the captain appeared alarmed.

"For Heaven's sake, madam, ease me of my fears: is he well?"

"Your father is well," resumed the baroness, "but is set out on business of the most unpleasant nature."

She then explained; while Orlando stood the picture of rage, agony, and despair.

"You will admit of my absence, madam. I will, this instant, endeavour to overtake the baron and my old friend."

The baroness was perplexed—so sudden a departure, immediately on his arrival, pained her exceedingly; yet she thought Orlando's presence necessary company for the baron and the doctor.

The

The affair was, however, not long in deliberation. Orlando embraced his mother, mounted one of the fleetest of his horses, and rode away with all imaginary speed.

Our hero made inquiries at every turnpike he came to, respecting the retinue he was in pursuit of, but found he was several hours behind hand; however, he abated nothing of his urgency till the evening of the next day, where we find him, as at the beginning of this history, encountering the horrors of the abbey, and his subsequent arrival at the inn.

The reader will recollect that we announced the arrival of a stranger at the inn where Orlando had taken up a temporary residence. This gentleman was not observed by him, till on the return of the former; when as Orlando was giving directions for his future progress,

he

he was surprised with the presence of a long valued friend and acquaintance; it was, indeed, no other than the gallant and accomplished Fitzherbert, the inseparable companion of all his toils and dangers.

Nothing could exceed the mutual surprise of the two friends at this unexpected meeting; at a time, each one thought the other many miles asunder.

Orlando, in an agitated tone, explained his motives for leaving the castle, at which Fitzherbert exhibited the strongest chagrin and disappointment.

"Was it our charming friends I was in pursuit of," exclaimed he.

Orlando here shewed a transport of impatient curiosity, and cried, "Then you have seen Monimia and Julia!"

"Hear

"Hear me," replied his friend. "You know my destination was considerably wide of this spot; but meeting with a singular occurrence on the road, I was tempted to deviate from my track, to discover the event of it.

"In my way to Chester, a chaise-and-four drove furiously by, accompanied with five or six attendants; my curiosity induced me to glance into the carriage as it passed, and I thought I saw two beautiful females in great emotion and agony."

"Proceed, pray proceed," cried Bellgrove; "I am all impatience."

"Fired by the thought," continued the other, "that some outrage or violence was intended them, I clapped spurs to my horse, in order to get a further insight into the matter; but the more

more I urged the animal I rode, the more they increased their speed, so that it was with difficulty I could keep within sight of the carriage.

" Having pursued them, however, till late in the evening, and my horse becoming jaded, I was obliged to give up the chace, and seek the first place of entertainment; from which, I departed this morning, intending to recover the tract I had deviated from."

" Guard them, ye Heavenly powers," exclaimed Orlando, with fervency. "The females you saw could be no other than Monimia and Julia; let us, this instant, pursue them to Horrordale Castle."

Fitzherbert was instantaneously fired with the same emotion, and orders were given to Jerry to prepare a chaise for their immediate departure.

At

At the time that Jerry received this sudden and clamorous summons, for Orlando had rung the bell with a violence that denoted the greatest impatience, he had set about trimming himself in the sprucest manner, and was in the act of shaving himself, in a position immediately under the bell, the clamorous peel of which operated so powerfully on his nervous system, as to produce a visible gash; the poor fellow thinking, at the same time, that some accident had happened to his master, ran bleeding up stairs, and presented a figure, which notwithstanding the commotion that reigned in the minds of Orlando and Fitzherbert, they could not refrain from a fit of laughter.

On his head was a worsted covering, tall as a grenadier's cap; his face covered with suds; and his throat bleeding in a copious manner.

"Gracious

" Gracious God defend us!" cried he, as he entered the room. " I hope you are not going to die—Is the house on fire, or are you in a fit, sir?"

Orlando comforted his 'squire, but bade him get every thing ready with instant dispatch.

Jerry instantly flung off his cap, rubbed the lather off his face, and flew like lightning down stairs; where, unluckily, he encountered a whole set of china, which the maid was going to deposit in a closet above. Jerry and the china, in consequence, rolled down the staircase, with a noise that alarmed the house.

The noise brought the landlady and the two gentlemen on the stairs, where our hero saw his unfortunate 'squire on his knees, supplicating for pardon; at the same time, the woman insisting upon a full recompense for the injury.

Orlando

Orlando relieved his man from his humble posture, by promising to make ample amends for the damage, cautioning him to be more careful in future.

This pacified the enraged fair one, and Jerry, by his dexterity, soon got every thing ready; when the two friends, with this diligent servant, set off, in haste, for Horrordale Castle.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER IV.

WE shall now return to the unfortunate females, whom we left at the moment of their escape from the room.

Upon quitting the apartment they came to a staircase, which they descended as silently as possible, and found a place, where several avenues met.

Here they paused for a moment, doubting which passage was most likely to favour their wishes; but having no time to deliberate, immediately chose one of them, without knowing why it should claim the preference. At

At the end of this avenue they found a door, which appeared to have no particular fastening; with a little trouble they soon burst it open, but it was an experiment that had very nearly proved fatal to their hopes. The damp made the door stick so tight, as to occasion a blast, which almost extinguished their lights; fortunately for the fugitives, there were two or three decayed lanthorns in the place, which they immediately converted into use, and proceeded to explore the dreary abodes of the building.

They had scarce gone a few paces, when they heard a door shut to with such violence, as startled them, and occasioned them to fly, they knew not whither.

In the midst of their retreat, a sudden rattling and furious noise ensued from a place nearly opposite, like one advancing

vancing to surprise them. This occasioned inexpressible consternation, and they halted with terror.

There were likewise sounds, so various and melancholy, in different parts of the mansion, that they momentarily thought themselves in the region of horrors.

When Monimia and Julia had, in a small degree, recovered themselves, they continued their course, and came to a flight of steps, which led down to an arched door way. Here the agitated females descended, and pulling back a rusty pair of bolts, they entered a place like a sepulchre, and instantaneously a tall figure, in slow and measured steps advanced, holding a dagger in one hand, and in the other a tablet, on which was written

" Forbear all further curiosity, or you instantly die." The

The fugitives shrieked and recoiled, when the door closed upon them with a horrid noise.

This sudden surprise was too much for the affrighted females to sustain. They reclined on the steps of the vault, and fell into a swoon.

Upon recovering they ascended, and still finding strength to pursue their object in view, directed their way from the vault, till they arrived at a room, the door of which stood partly open. Monimia and Julia entered, and to their astonishment, beheld a female figure in black, the face of which was concealed by a long veil.

The ladies were about to retire with dismay, but the form beckoned them to advance; and pointing to an avenue at the further end, proceeded towards it,

while

while they followed with trembling steps.

The spectre now conducted them through various passages, and at last they descended into a vault, where the former, after stalking to the centre of it, pointed to a ring-bolt in the floor, and then seemed to intimate a wish that the place should be opened. Julia and Monimia obeyed; and after exerting all their force, the door flew back, and they discovered a deep cavern, at the bottom of which, lay something in the form of a box. A deep groan was now heard, and the phantom, after moving in solemn state three times round the grave, exclaimed,

> "My bones lie buried in that chest;
> "They lie to rot, but not to rest."

Monimia and Julia now stood in the most awful surprise, when the appari-

tion beckoning them to follow, led them to a room, the floor of which was stained with blood; and pointing to this dismal token, a voice was heard to say, "Within these walls exists the man who did this impious deed."

The phantom now advanced towards Julia, and lifting up her veil, exclaimed, "O, Julia! be virtuous, and be happy."

Julia gazed on the form with a wildness of joy and surprise, when she recognized the exact features of her unfortunate sister. In a delirium of ecstasy she flew to embrace the spectre, but the latter waved her off, saying,

"*That must not be now;* I am *not mortal:*" but with a heavenly smile, bade her farewell, and almost instantly disappeared.

The

The morning now began to dawn, and the prisoners could direct their steps without the light, but found themselves incapable of making many further researches. Monimia began to be exhausted, and Julia felt, as in a trance, after what she had seen. They, however, though fatigued to a great degree, examined a few more places, but could find no means of escape.

This disappointment threw them into despair, and casting themselves on a kind of bench, in the apartment they were in, abandoned every hope.

The two friends had but just taken their position, when they heard a kind of breathing close by; upon which, Monimia opened a closet door near them, and immediately shrieked. Julia came to her assistance, and was almost overcome with joy and surprise, on be-

holding little Henry, sleeping on a bed, which the closet contained.

They would instantly have devoured him with caresses, but the fear of waking and disturbing him checked their fondness. Monimia and Julia threw themselves by his side, and regardless of discovery, resolved no more to be separated from their little darling.

Overcome with fear and fatigue they soon began to doze, and when they awoke, a considerable bustle and noise was heard, not far from them.

This threw the fugitives into the greatest consternation. Julia caught up Henry, and was preparing to fly, but she knew not whither; while Monimia, applying to a little casement which she saw left open, waved her handkerchief several times in the air, in hopes such

an

an attempt might providentially bring some one to their assistance.

They were not long in this state of dismay, before three or four persons entered the apartment, and shortly after, the wicked Osmond made his appearance; who, with sneers and sarcastic smiles, ridiculed their endeavours to escape. He then ordered them to a certain apartment, where he renewed his insolent and abandoned solicitations. Julia summoned up courage to treat his importunities with contempt; upon which, the tyrant proceeded to treat her with libertine familiarity.

" Monster!" exclaims the enraged female, " Would you insult, in the grossest manner, a defenceless woman?"

" Proud female!" replied Osmond, " Do you insult my power? Know then, I have you now securely in my posses-

 sion;

sion; nor can any being, or circumstance, release you."

Julia, all this while, maintained her dignity, and replied to his proposals with the most virtuous resolutions and fortitude.

The inhuman tyrant now grew frantic with rage, and vociferated, "insolent woman! soon shalt thou feel the effects of thy vanity and haughtiness;" and stamping violently with his foot, immediately three ruffians, with drawn daggers, appeared.

"Badinaldo," cries the tyrant, to the foremost, "conduct these women to their prison."

This mandate was immediately obeyed, and they were conveyed, in a solitary manner, to their cell; where, when they arrived, they on their knees suppli-

supplicated the protection of the Almighty.

When the unfortunate females had remained in this dreary situation about half an hour, a sound was heard, like some one approaching; who, they supposed, was coming to inflict additional tortures.

While they were watching the door in an agony of suspence, they observed a bit of paper, which was, with some difficulty, thrust under it. Julia seized it, and by the glimmering light which issued into the dungeon, contrived to decypher the following lines:

" Osmond is now meditating the most dreadfnl purposes; but let not fear betray you into any concessions; rely on a friend, who is secretly endeavouring to procure you means of escape."

This intimation afforded them some consolation, notwithstanding the dreariness of their situation; which they hoped, from the tenor of the note, would not be lasting. However, they felt a suspence, which kept them in a state of alarm for nearly two hours; when a violent bustle at the door of the dungeon announced the entrance of their keepers, who said, they came with orders to conduct them to some other apartment.

The unfortunate prisoners were now conducted into a room hung with deep mourning; the light of day was excluded, and a pale and glimmering lamp, which was suspended from the ceiling, served only to discover a scene of surrounding horror.

Scarce had they entered, when the haughty and ambitious tyrant introduced his

his presence, and supposing that the gloomy appearance of the apartment would work a terror on their minds, began to treat them with his accustomed rudeness.

They grew incensed at his behaviour, and Julia, in particular, set his insidious arts at defiance; till at length, Osmond putting on the most hideous frown, and exhibiting a countenance full of malice and revenge, stalked up to her, and exclaimed, "now, madam, you shall witness what your insolence and obstinacy have provoked me to;" so saying, he ordered a secret door of the apartment to be thrown open, which exhibited to Monimia and Julia a sight that chilled them with horror.—It represented little Henry extended on a bench, and an executioner standing by with an uplifted axe, seemingly at the moment of putting an end to the child's existence.

Osmond now cried out, "see, haughty and imperious woman, the effects of your obstinacy and pride."

Julia and Monimia trembling, and overcome with terror, began to remonstrate, when the tyrant continued,

" No parleying, no evasion—this very moment severs his little life asunder, if you dare reject my proposals."

The unhappy females dropped on their knees, and supplicated mercy for the child.

" Nay, then," cries the monster— " executioner, do your duty;" and the man instantly put himself in the attitude of obedience, and was about to give the blow, when Osmond vociferated, " withhold one moment," and turning to Julia, " say, haughty fair, are you convinced a fatal issue accompanies your non-

non-compliance. Pronounce, instantly, in my favour, or the next passing minutes procures his doom."

"Heaven protect the child!" cried the ladies, with a shriek; when the tyrant, incensed to the utmost, bellowed out, "we wait no longer—now, Badinaldo, give the fatal blow."

Monimia and Julia uttered the most piercing shrieks when they saw the axe uplifted to perform the command given, and ran to the spot, to withhold the arm of the assassin; but that office was reserved for those more capable of averting the intended mischief: a party of men, at this moment, rushed into the apartment, secured the executioner before he had time to give the blow, and attacked the miscreants who were to be present at the inhuman ceremony.

In the mean-time, the brutal and

cowardly Osmond, impressed with a conviction that his time was come, attempted flight, making a violent effort to carry off the women; but in this design he was defeated in a moment by the gallant Fitzherbert, who rushing between, with a furious blow, obliged the tyrant to recoil a few paces.

Osmond drew his dagger, and aimed a furious blow at his adversary, which was fortunately intercepted by the approach of Orlando; when seeing himself surrounded, he drew a pistol from his pocket, and instantaneously fired the contents through his head.

The gallant youths now found themselves masters of the field; one or two of the ruffians fled at the moment of their entrance, and the others were soon put to the rout.

At this moment the preservation of the

the ladies rushed strongly on their minds, whom they found reclining in one of the windows, without sense or motion.

Orlando and Fitzherbert, with the assistance of Jerry, and one of Osmond's attendants, who, from the first moment of their appearance, lent them all the assistance in his power, conveyed Monimia and her friend to a more convenient apartment, and dispatched messengers to the village and its environs for every possible assistance.

In the mean time Osmond lay on the floor in a state of insensibility, and was conveyed to his chamber a miserable spectacle, the ball which had passed through his head having carried away part of his skull: immediate assistance was necessary, and the doctor who was sent for arriving early, every possible care was administered to put the wound in a train of recovery.

This

This gentleman had first inspected the condition of the ladies, for whom he evinced much concern; and manifested the greatest assiduity and attention to restore them to their friends.

A conversation ensued soon after this, between the doctor and the two friends, in which the former exhibited no small surprise in finding inhabitants in the abbey; aud Orlando recounting to him his experience in the place the preceding evening, confessed he had concluded it to be a deserted building.

The doctor observed, that the spot had long been shunned by people about the country, who had a tradition that it had been tenanted by a necromancer, or one who was said to deal with the devil; and so great was their aversion, that they would go miles round, rather than come near a building devoted to such a purpose.

The

The doctor soon after retired, leaving the amiable youths highly impressed with a sense of his understanding and humanity.

Orlando immediately dispatched an express to the baroness, stating that he had discovered the ladies, and describing the place from whence the letter was dated from; at the same time, requesting her to inform the baron on his return home, and to solicit him and Dr. Pritchards to accompany her to the abbey.

He likewise informed her he had dispatched a messenger to Horrordale for that purpose, but was fearful of his missing them on the road.

The two friends would have gone in person to Bellgrove Castle, but the critical situation of the ladies forbade such a proceeding. Prior to this intention Dr.

Dr. Howard had spoken in the most favourable terms of the event of their disorder, so as to excite in them the most joyful expectations; when, one day, the complaint assumed a very unpromising appearance—a delirium ensued, attended with many symptoms of approaching dissolution.

Monimia, in her phrensy, would often call on the name of Orlando, but soon as he approached, spurned him from her, crying, "Villain! away—What, more murder?—take him from me!—ah! he has done the deed; he has murdered my Orlando!"

The afflicted youth would attempt to sooth, but in vain; and the nurse found herself called upon to interfere, as his presence only increased the disorder.

Orlando retired with a heart almost broken on such an occasion.

Poor

Poor Julia was in as bad a way—she raved incessantly on her murdered sister, and little Henry, who now lay by her side, not unmoved at her distressing situation.

It was a melancholy and moving sight for Fitzherbert, who never experienced so tender an interest in her behalf as at the present moment.

The tears stole down his manly cheeks at the prospect of a speedy and fatal interruption to his happiness.

While affairs wore this mournful aspect—the condition of Osmond, who had, in a submissive and penitential tone, requested to see Orlando, operated as a claim to his attention.

When he approached, the delinquent exhibited an agony which had nearly overcome him, and then raved in the most

most awful terms on his accumulated crimes.

At length, when his rage had subsided, he beckoned Orlando to approach, and in languid expressions asserted, "I have defrauded you, sir, of your right;" at which, our hero started. After a considerable time, in which Osmond struggled for breath, he resumed,

"Horrordale Castle, of which I took possession, was bequeathed to you; and nought but the basest villainy has supplanted you. Tutored by a villain's arts, too congenial, alas, with my own temper, I stepped into a right, which justice and Heaven forbade me, adding murder to the atrocity of the crime."

Here a struggle ensued, which they thought would be his last; at the end of which he became so exhausted, that the company present thought proper to

postpone

postpone their attention to his story till another opportunity, if such an event should happen.

Soon as Orlando and his friend retired, they discoursed on what had fallen from Osmond.

Fitzherbert remarked, that he could never have suspected so villainous a transaction from him; though he recollected several little nefarious proceedings which the conscious-struck man had been guilty of in early days, when they had been at school together.

Orlando replied, that the whole of Osmond's life had been inveloped in mysteries; and, that notwithstanding his late asseverations, he knew not what construction to put upon them. "I am the more impatient, therefore," continues the amiable youth, "for the arrival

arrival of the baron and baroness, with my worthy friend, the doctor, that I may have the advantage of their opinions on so solemn an occasion."

Dr. Howard was frequent and attentive in his visits towards his patients—as to Osmond's case, he pronounced it mortal; but he had exercised such skill, with regard to the ladies, as to bring them into a speedy train of recovery. This was an affair that highly ingratiated him into the esteem of the gentlemen, who knew not how sufficiently to estimate his merit.

The doctor, in the present favourable state of things, permitted his two friends to visit the ladies, who were now so far advanced in health, as to receive them in an adjoining sitting-room.

Orlando could not refrain from his

old subject, and Monimia enjoyed his conversation not a whit the less because it was seasoned with love.

Fitzherbert blessed himself for the opportunity of conversing again with Julia, whom he complimented in the pleasing strains of sincere affection, and was delighted with the hopes that his passion would one day meet with an equal return.

The conversation was plaintive and sensible; the two female friends, though far from being elevated in spirits, were not averse to discourse; while both Orlando and his friend, though under a strong impression of what they had so lately witnessed, felt a secret pleasure, which the company of the objects of their affections had insensibly inspired.

In the midst of the delight, however, which these interviews occasioned, nei-

ther

ther were unmindful of the unhappy wretch who lay dying in another apartment. They made several visits to him, but his situation was such, that they were repeatedly disappointed as to any further continuation of his narrative, and they thought it would be for ever involved in mystery and conjecture.

One day, as they were watching the symptoms of the unhappy man's malady, the arrival of the baron and his party was announced to them.

This was highly welcome intelligence to Orlando, who flew to embrace the parent of his fond affection.

The meeting was interesting in the greatest degree, and after he had welcomed his parents in the most ardent manner, flew to pay his respects to Dr. Pritchards; who, in return, exhibited every symptom of the sincerest at-

tachment; at the same time, that he was taken up in returning the caresses of his daughter, who despaired alike with her father, of their ever meeting again.

Not less tender was the interview between Julia and her foster parents, who knew not how to be lavish enough of their joy, on the recovery of her a second time.

In short, the whole company exhibited such mutual regard and attachment for each other, as would have made the happiest scene in nature, but for the gloom which necessarily pervaded the whole building.

A short time after, the party, all but the ladies, attended on the wretched Osmond, who, astonishing to relate, was considerably better; but suffering every now-and-then paroxisms of horror,

ror, which the presence of his uncle rather tended to increase.

Osmond gazed on him with a wildness of look, then averting his eyes, muttered something to himself, which sounded like self accusation; and at the approach of the baron, he attempted to make his escape from the bed; at length Dr. Pritchards drew near, at sight of whom, the wretch burst into a copious flood of tears, and intreated, in the most moving manner, that the former would hear his confession.

The doctor bowed assent, and Osmond addressed him thus:

"Ambition has been my bane—from lending too ready an ear to those, who a long time had been initiated in fraud, cunning, and the worst of crimes, I became the dupe and tool of the most atrocious purposes—but, oh! had I not added

murder to my base exploits, there, perhaps, would have been room for mercy."

The unhappy wretch now wreathed himself in torture, which denoted the strongest pangs of remorse and conscience; then bursting as it were with agony, exclaimed, "This place has been devoted to horrors!"

The doctor advised him to a full confession of his crimes.

" Then, sir," cried he, " if it be possible that you can pity one who has been guilty of repeated barbarities, for mercy's sake, do not deny my request.

" In a deep recess, within the walls of this abode, lie the neglected bones of one whom I ought to have respected and

and caressed; but, who from motives of cruelty and pride, I sacrificed and destined to an untimely grave. Oh! suffer them to be removed to some more hallowed place.

"Cursed be the name of Bellamy," continued the tortured man, "for under that appellation, I seduced from home, from happiness and peace, the most amiable of women."

"Bellamy!" cries the doctor, with surprise.

"Yes, reverend sir. The person whom you so kindly took under your protection, had due authority to call me husband—but, Oh! monster that I was, to secure myself from a public discovery of such an event, I forced her from the peaceful asylum you afforded her, and in revenge for her repeated intreaties

intreaties to do her justice—ah! the bloody dagger will testify the result."

The doctor here recollected that part of Louisa's story, which represented her lying-in of little Henry, and supposing Osmond ignorant of his offspring, further than his birth, immediately exclaimed, "Gracious Heaven! then you do not know that you have a child living at this time, and that, in the person of the infant you conveyed to this spot."

"Ye sacred powers!" ejaculated the dying man, "what an instance of mercy, to restrain my hand from shedding his blood. Suffer me to behold one whom I have injured beyond pardon."

The child, by the doctor's orders, was brought in, and in viewing him, Osmond exclaimed,

"The image of the unhappy Louisa! this cherub I once saw, doctor, nigh your abode; and Oh! some strange instinct seized me, I knew not how to account for—it momentarily disarmed me of my rage, yet I knew not why—Oh! had a benign curiosity but led me to inquire his origin, perhaps I should not now hear the reproaches of my murdered wife."

Osmond now began to rave in the wildest manner, and the party present retired, overwhelmed with grief and horror at the tale—some little time after, intelligence was brought them that he was in the article of death.

With heavy hearts did the baron, his friend, and the two youths repair again to his chamber, just time enough to hear him, in exhausted tones, cry, Oh! the field---the fatal spot!" Here he paused, and the doctor waited for further

ther information; when a feeble spark of life just remaining, Osmond, in broken accents, uttered, "Injustice! papers! murder! retribution! and closed his eyes for ever."

## CHAPTER V.

THE baron and his party now retired, under the most awful impression, respecting Osmond's dreadful and unhappy exit; and so solemn was the influence this catastrophe had upon their minds, that the latter part of the day was spent in gloom and solitary reserve.

The first object that engaged their attention the ensuing day, was the finding the remains of the unfortunate Louisa, for the purpose of a respectable interment; but in this humane design they

they met with almost an insuperable difficulty.

What had fallen from the dying man was a very imperfect description---no place had been specified where the relics lay; and it was no unlikely supposition that the most hidden and secret spot had been chosen for the occasion.

This dilemma was, however, fortunately removed, by a circumstance, which we shall relate.

The reader will recollect that when Julia and Monimia were in the dungeon, prior to the horrid scene, there was some one who invisibly promised to be their friend.

This was Osmond's principal agent; who tired of serving a man of such an imperious and sanguinary a character, was additionally incensed at beholding

his designs levelled at two such divinely formed figures. He therefore resolved, at first, to be their friend, and studied all that lay in his power to frustrate every evil intended them.

It was highly satisfactory to him that in many instances he was able to accomplish so benevolent a wish, being commissioned by his master to have the chief management of his affairs.

He often equivocated and temporized, and by so doing, kept his master's purpose in delay.

As this worthy character, whose name was Badinaldo, was looking out of one of the abbey windows, he saw two gentlemen surveying the building in the most attentive manner; instantly he descended, and stealing to the strangers, represented how matters were, and requested their assistance; a con-

tract

tract was instantaneously entered upon, and it was agreed that this man should procure them admission into the abbey. The event has been described, and Badinaldo, for his attachment and integrity, was chosen a confidential servant.

Badinaldo then, at this moment of difficulty, was applied to by the company, and questioned as to his knowledge of the interior part of the building, who replied, that he knew many of the reclusest parts of it, confessing to his shame, that he had in various instances contributed to the caprice and inhumanity of his master, but had always studied the accommodation of the sufferer as far as he could, consistent with his own safety.

The doctor then inquired how long he had been in Osmond's service---Badinaldo replied, a little before he was

 employed

employed in assisting the carrying off Louisa.

The company now felt a mournful curiosity to know the particulars of the assault on that unhappy female, and Badinaldo proceeded:

'After we had made a prisoner of the lady, we travelled many circuitous roads to evade a pursuit, and she screaming violently for some time, my master ordered me into the carriage to awe her into silence; I, however, effected the purpose, without violence, and tried every means to sooth her, by assurances that I would assist her to the utmost of my power.

'After severe travelling we arrived at Horrordale Castle, and I was appointed to continue my attendance on the lady, and must confess, was frequently a reluctant spectator of her sufferings, but could

could not release her, Osmond unremittingly being upon the watch; and I knew my fate, if detected in the smallest degree, of infidelity to his orders.

'The lady Louisa was permitted to visit my master, but was always treated with a sort of distance, bordering on contempt.

'Poor lady! she bore it patiently; but at times, when he broke out into violent passions with her, she would burst into tears and take on piteously.

'She was usually sentenced to a dark and gloomy apartment, secured by massy iron bars; a situation, that at first had such an effect upon her, as to throw her into convulsions.

'My lady intreated and implored him to soften the rigours of her confinement,

but in vain ; my master was inexorable, and gave us all the strictest injunction to keep the closest watch upon her actions.

‘ One day he called me to him and said, that he had an affair to communicate, to which I must swear eternal secrecy; I bowed submission—and he then informed me how unhappy he was in his present situation, having an attachment to a lady, whose consent he had no doubt of obtaining ; but at the same time was tormented with an insuperable bar to his views.’

I guessed instantaneously to what he alluded.

‘ I can,’ continued he, ‘ no longer bear so cruel a mortification to my wishes ; surely, some means might be contrived, to relieve me of the difficulty.’

‘ Though

'Though I well understood the hint, I appeared not to comprehend him; upon which, with a careless air he informed he, that he had provided a place for madam Louisa about a hundred miles off, and gave orders, at the same time, that she should set out for that place the next day.

'After two days travelling, we came to this spot, and ever since such caution and privacy has been preserved, that to this hour no one, except those who have made the discovery, has had any idea that the building was inhabited. We have, hitherto, occupied but few of the rooms, and those in the interior part of the abbey; and by so doing, have kept ourselves from public notice.

'My master and the unfortunate lady used to have daily conferences, in which I could always hear him talk in a loud and imperious tone. On a sudden, how-

ever,

ever, he permitted her several indulgencies, but those lasted but a little while; she was shortly after sentenced to the same dungeon in which the two ladies were confined.

'One day, by some unaccountable means, my lady escaped from her prison, and my master soon got knowledge of the circumstance. He burst into the most bitter imprecations, and swore if he caught her, the confinement should be ten times more rigorous; so saying, he flew from his apartment in pursuit of her.

'I cannot tell what conversation ensued on his finding her, as no one dare approach him in these furious moments: but, about half an hour after he came with haste, and apparent disorder in his countenance, demanding the assistance of the servants in behalf of their mistress, who, he said, had laid violent

hands

hands on herself. We immediately repaired to the spot, and found this amiable lady struggling on her floor, with a dagger in her hand, and the blood streaming in torrents from the breast. She was not quite dead, but looking wistfully at my master, she uttered a groan, and then expired.

'He now affected a temporary effusion of sorrow on the occasion, but the next day ordered her corpse to be put in a chest, that stood in the apartment, and lowered into a deep vault that lay contiguous to the spot.

'After this was accomplished, he enjoined us all to perpetual secrecy, and gave orders that we should quit the place in the dead of night, after securing well the rooms that were habitable, and proceed for Horrordale Castle.

'Since that time,' no mention was made

made of the Abbey, till some days back, when he ordered the same apartments to be got ready, without assigning any reason, till the affair of the two ladies was on the point of being put into execution. And knowing my master would put in practice any thing, however diabolical, I thought, by pretending to a desire to be employed as agent in the business, I should have an opportunity to render them some service, which I am happy to say I did, by changing the glasses in which the stupifying liquor was put, which was intended for them; likewise, by my offer to become the executioner of the child, would enable me to suspend the blow, until the gentlemen, whom I had admitted into the abbey, could come to their relief; at the same time, the axe would furnish me with means of defence in case of a detection. Thus far, continued Badinaldo, I have, in some degree, atoned for the crimes my situation made me accessary

accessary to:'—Here he ceased. The company commended his humanity, and promised that he should lose nothing for his good services.

The baron and his party now adjourned into another apartment, where they conversed, in melancholy accents, on the fate of Julia's sister; and there was not a breast but heaved a sigh for the sufferings of the unhappy Louisa: as to Julia, she was so overcome, that it was with difficulty she could retain the least particle of life—with the assistance of her kind friends, however, she revived; and aided by the consolation which they administered, at length experienced a tolerable degree of composure.

Just at this juncture the arrival of Dr. Howard was announced, who was received with great courtesy and respect by the whole company.

The

The doctor immediately paid his addresses to his patients, and was sorry to observe something like a return of their complaint. The cause, however, was explained, without mentioning the particulars of the story which had brought on their indisposition.

He instantly set about prescribing an exhilirating potion, and at the same time advised a removal from the abbey.

A temporary residence was prepared for them in the adjacent village; to which, accompanied by the baron and his lady, with the doctor, they immediately resorted.

Orlando and Fitzherbert, however, thought it expedient to reside at the abbey till Osmond's interment.

Before Dr. Howard retired, he fell into a conversation with the two friends about

about the singularity of the place they occupied, giving them a short detail of what knowledge he possessed of it, from the first time the abbey engaged his notice.

'I remember,' observes the doctor, 'about thirty years ago, this building was inhabited by a person, who, from the singularity of his dress and appearance, was stiled the conjurer.

'He lived very recluse, and was supposed to devote his time to mathematical and various philosophical experiments---was known to be very expert in mechanism, and once terrified an impertinent visitant, by contriving a figure, which, by the touch of the bell, opened the gate, and made a spring upon the intruder.

'This affair soon got wind, and at last, no person chose to venture upon

so

so disagreeable an experiment, and the recluse got his provisions and necessaries no one knew how.

'Our philosopher was supposed to be very rich, but upon his decease, there was found scarcely sufficient to bury him.

'Some time after, there was a bustle in the place, in consequence of the arrival of a son of this gentleman, who had been very extravagant, and given his father much uneasiness.

'The young man insisted that he must have died in affluence, but that some person had embezzled or secreted his property; a difficulty now arose on whom to fix the accusation—no one was known to have access to the mansion, nor any personal conference with the master of it, except an elderly infirm woman, who resided with him, in the capacity of housekeeper.

'Our

'Our philosopher's son, however, willing to sift the matter to the minutest article, caused her to be carried before a magistrate; but nothing transpired that could in the least prove her to be the delinquent.

'In a little time the inquiry was dropped, and the son disappeared, without having any further communication with the neighbourhood.

'So reserved was the old gentleman in his conduct, that few people even knew his name; so that instead of Fitzherbert, he was scarcely known by any other name than the conjurer.'

"Fitzherbert! did you say, doctor?" cries the young soldier, with amazement; and looking at him with great earnestness, continued, "can you tell us any further particulars concerning him."

The

The doctor replied in the negative.

Fitzherbert now assumed a very thoughtful posture, and after the doctor and Orlando had conversed a little on promiscuous subjects, the former took a respectful leave, and departed.

The next day, Fitzherbert and his friend conversed very seriously on what the doctor had announced to them; and the former, the more he ruminated on the affair, the more he was persuaded that it was a case in which he was in some measure interested. The name, and other particulars, which corresponded with what he had some faint remembrance of having heard in his infancy, induced him to suppose that he was on the point of a discovery, which might turn out of considerable advantage to him.

He therefore determined on a visit to his

his nurse, who, he supposed, could furnish him with the particulars of the early part of his life; and after an affectionate interview with Julia, who he was delighted to see recovering her health and beauty, and a few friendly overtures to the rest of the company, set out upon his intended journey.

The baron and his company, except Julia, who was persuaded to be absent on the occasion, could now no longer omit paying a visit to the degrading tomb of the unfortunate Louisa.

Badinaldo became their guide; they passed through several rooms, till they came to the fatal chamber, where they paused a moment with awe, and then proceeded to the vault, and on taking up the trap-door a groan ensued from all, when they beheld such cruelty and neglect shewn to a virtuous and amiable woman.

The

The day following the remains of the unfortunate Louisa were committed to the grave. The interment of Osmond likewise took place at the same time.

The ceremony was, of course, awful; a secret dread hung about the whole party, on the remembrance of the crimes of Osmond, while tears and heart-breaking sighs ensued, on the recollection of the misfortunes and fate of the good and virtuous Louisa.

Julia was, for some days, much indisposed after this affair; but possessing naturally a good constitution, and surrounded by the best of friends, who exerted every means to divert her sorrow, was soon restored to something like her accustomed spirits and cheerfulness.

Dr. Howard, in his next visit to the abbey, after reciting the story of the philosopher, was rather surprised in not

beholding

beholding Fitzherbert as usual, a young gentleman, of whose manners and understanding he held a high sense, and for whom he felt a sincere esteem.

The doctor made immediate inquiries after him, upon which, Orlando acquainted him with the real cause of his absence.

"I hope," replied the former, "success will attend his pursuit, and from what I have learnt since, am persuaded that there is property, if it can any how be discovered.

"As I before observed, this eccentric gentleman was confidently supposed to die rich, notwithstanding appearances to the contrary; so that if report be true, he must have conveyed it to some secret haunt, which has hitherto eluded the strictest investigation."

 "That

"That it is not at all unlikely," remarked the baron. "A man of his genius could, no doubt, invent some secret recess, capable of baffling every attempt at discovery."

"Exactly so," cries the doctor; "his descendant, under an invincible persuasion of his wealth, not only traversed every part of the abbey, but even dug up the ground surrounding it, in hopes of finding the treasure; but was, at length, disappointed in his search."

This intelligence, though it rather disconcerted the hopes of Fitzherbert's friends, yet did not leave them destitute of every idea of success. Orlando anxiously waited the arrival of his friend, whom, he hoped, would bring tidings of his affinity to the old gentleman before-mentioned; in such a case, he was determined, with Fitzherbert, to take a

most

most minute examination of every part of the building.

Being decided in this point, he left the care of the place to Badinaldo and Jerry, who, by this time, were become very friendly associates. The latter was, indeed, very desirous of being upon the best of footings with his comrade; as, for certain reasons, he never liked to traverse any part of the building without a companion.

As there was no particular employment for these men, they spent their time mostly in conversation together.

Jerry laboured under a considerable disadvantage in his present state—as I before observed, he was timid and superstitious; his companion, on the other hand, from being habituated to a gloomy and solitary situation, never felt a pang similar to what frequently

agitated the mind of our unfortunate 'squire.

It cost the latter many efforts to conceal his weakness; as he wished, by all means, to be thought a man of courage.

Whenever, therefore, he was under the necessity of visiting any of the other apartments, he set about it with the strongest indications of valour.

Badinaldo admired his courage, and thought he would make an admirable champion in a good cause.

"Don't you think," cries he, to Jerry, as they were one evening in discourse, "that this abbey is a very dreary place?—few people, I believe, would make a choice of residing here."

"As to that," replies Jerry, "it may depend upon how a man is situated; for

for instance, a person in gaol would pocket all inconveniences for this place and liberty."

"You have answered me," cries Badinaldo; "but I mean, very few would exchange the most homely residence for the finest apartment here."

"Why, I must confess," replies the other; "that there is a strange odd effect in the building that might not suit some people. It is solitary, and yet I fancy there is more company in it than agreeable, sometimes.

"It is still, and yet I have heard some strange noises, now-and-then.

"Then it has so many holes and corners in it, that on entering one place, we don't know where we shall come out at the next."

"Why, as to that," answers Badinaldo, "there is no comparison between where we are and Horrordale Castle, the archways and halls are no more alike in size, than the height of this room to the dome of St. Paul's."

"Indeed!" cries Jerry, with a stare; "that is a kind of place I should not much like to live in, then."

"For what reason?" inquired the other, looking rather inquisitively at his companion.

"For no other cause," answered Jerry, assuming a careless tone, "than that I am partial to a little snug room, where I can look about me without straining my eye-balls with the height or distance."

"Ah! ah! ah!" cries Badinaldo, "that's a humorous thought, however."

Just

Just as they were diverting themselves with this conceit, a violent crash in an adjoining room made Jerry look a little grave, and upon a repetition of the noise, he started up, and betraying symptoms of alarm, exclaimed,

"In the name of God, who is there?"

By this time, he was so unfortunate, as to betray what sort of mettle he was made of; and Badinaldo, who was a kind of wit, began to exercise his artillery upon his companion.

An incident that happened a little time after, afforded him an excellent opportunity for this purpose.

On a sudden an unaccountable noise was heard, sometimes against the floor, sometimes against the wainscot, and then against the windows.

 Badi-

Badinaldo well knew that it was no more than the efforts of an owl, who had got into the apartment, to escape; but willing to continue the sport, sprung suddenly from his seat, and exclaimed, "They are coming! they are coming!" and fled immediately out of the room.

Jerry had now received an over-dose; he clasped his hands together, attempted to kneel, and finally made a precipitate retreat up the chimney; in doing which, however, he encountered unexpected persecutions. The bricks that he had taken hold of being loose, came down upon his back and shoulders with such an unmerciful force, as made his post infinitely hazardous and difficult.

In this state of peril did poor Jerry stand quaking, and to add to his misfortunes, every motion of his body brought down such streams of soot, that when

he

he descended from his place of refuge, he looked more like one of Satan's emissaries, than an inhabitant of this world.

Jerry, unconscious of his sable appearance, explored the room, with the hopes of finding his companion, but no Badinaldo was there. He concluded, therefore, that he had been carried off by inchantment, and in the dread of a similar fate, rushed out of the abbey, and proceeded to his master's abode.

He, however, found his disasters were not even now at an end; for in approaching the village, he encountered a whole troop of school-boys, who putting him to immediate flight, chased him over ditches and stiles, through bushes and briars, till the poor fellow was on the point of sinking, through terror and fatigue.

Fortunately for him, their time of enlargement was expired, which obliged them to give up the pursuit; and the unfortunate man, at length, arrived at the place he set out for.

Jerry found means of obtaining immediate access to the company, who observing a black figure, without any human features, for so he appeared at first sight, were about leaving their seats, when the unfortunate sufferer exclaimed, "For God's sake, gentlemen, forgive this intrusion!"

Orlando immediately recollected the voice of his servant, and leading him out of the room, inquired into the cause of his disaster.

Jerry related to him the whole; and his master, with difficulty, refraining a smile, desired him to retire and cleanse himself,

himself, and then he would converse a little more upon the subject.

When Orlando returned to the company, he related to them the particulars of Jerry's story, which, though they pitied his sufferings, threw them into repeated rounds of laughter, and expressing a desire to hear the account from his own mouth; after a reasonable time had elapsed, Jerry was permitted to have an audience.

Our 'squire, on his entrance, with many bows and scrapes, hoped he had not offended.

"Not in the least, my good fellow," cries the baron; "but pray make us acquainted with the cause of your alarm."

"Saving your honour's presence," replied Jerry, "I believe a certain clo-

ven-footed gentleman is very busy with his pranks in yonder abbey."

"Are you not rather superstitious?" continued the baron.

"I am always alarmed where there is occasion, your honour."

"What has been the matter?" asked Jerry's employer.

"Only a little bit of a noise, sir, like the falling of a church, or a rattling peal of thunder."

"But Jerry, you are valiant?" cries Orlando. "You are not alarmed at a noise?"

"Only when it comes too near one's elbows, your honour."

"What did you see, Jerry?"

"Nothing

" Nothing, sir, but I felt a great deal."

" How came you so disfigured?" cries the baron.

" By a little japan in the great hall chimney, your honour."

" Oh! then, you think the chimney a snug place in times of danger?"

" When there is no better, an please you," replies Jerry.

" I am inclined to believe," continues the baron, " you are too quick in apprehending danger; you had better return and satisfy yourself."

" I am quite satisfied, your honour; and think it would be too presumptuous to examine further into the business."

" Well,

"Well, Jerry," cries Orlando, "if you prefer it, you may reside at the inn, and officiate when I have occasion for you."

The poor fellow bowed very low for this instance of his master's goodness, and after being treated with a glass of wine, retired, leaving the company to divert themselves with his strange humour and simplicity.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER VI.

WHILE Orlando was meditating on his investigation of the abbey, and the probability of success attending such an experiment, the gallant Fitzherbert returned—he had made inquiry after his nurse, but found she had been dead nearly a twelvemonth, and could gain no intelligence of his ancestors or relatives from any one about the spot.

He then meditated a journey to Mr. and Mrs. Foster, who had been his guardians from his infancy, but could not persuade himself to undertake the journey,

ney, till he had personally satisfied himself concerning the health of Julia; particularly, as the abbey was not far out of the track to their place of residence.

The young hero was received with every demonstration of joy and satisfaction; and his interview with the object of his affection, was of the most tender description.

Orlando had a long conversation with his friend, respecting his design to explore the abbey; and though nothing had transpired to substantiate the right of the latter, in case of a discovery, yet he was so prepossessed with the opinion that Fitzherbert was a lineal descendant, that he could no longer forbear his curiosity; and it was, at length agreed, that the search should commence the next day.

This affair was decided upon, in a walk

walk which the two friends had taken together; and upon their return, Orlando was on the point of communicating his design to the baron, when the latter surprised him with information that he had received an express from Mr. Beaumont, requesting his immediate return to the castle.

In such a case, the investigation was postponed, until some future period.

Badinaldo and Jerry were commissioned to have the chief care of the abbey, and by the advice of the latter, a few assistants were added, as he was a great advocate for company, on such occasions.

Having arranged every thing for the protection of the place, our hero and his friend departed the next day, with the baron and the company, for Bellgrove Castle.

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The baron, soon as he arrived, was visited by the merchant, who presented him with papers of importance, which, when the former had inspected with the minutest care, he rose, and thanked Mr. Beaumont in the most respectful manner.

The two gentlemen then joined the company at large, and the baron walking up to Julia with inexpressible satisfaction in his countenance, exclaimed, "I congratulate you, my dear madam, on your sudden important acquisition."

Julia looked surprised, and the whole party exhibited very great curiosity to hear the result.

He then proceeded:—"These papers convey to you a property, by no means equal to your merits; but which, I hope, you will live many years to enjoy."

The

The merchant now entered into a short history of the discovery, and said, he had received two or three letters, conveying hints of a large property being bequeathed to a person of the name of Woodville, who, about five years back, dwelt in a recluse place, somewhere in this part of the country, requesting that a particular inquiry should be made; and in case of his decease, to endeavour to gain information of his daughter, who resided with him at that time, as the property would devolve to her—he said, he found himself at several times disposed to mention the affair at the castle, on recollecting the story of Julia's father, but at length resolved to suspend his inclination till the most unequivocal proof should arrive of Julia's being the lawful heiress; which, after several letters on the subject, was now fully proved, as would appear by the papers which he had the honour to present.

The

The papers were now read aloud:

The first contained an ample confession of having usurped the greater part of the property bequeathed, and expressing the utmost contrition for the same.

The rest transmitted to Julia not only what had been her right, but considerable possessions in England, in addition; so that it appeared she was now invested with a property of not less than two thousand pounds a year.

The party present were profuse in their congratulations on the occasion. Fitzherbert, in particular, advanced, and taking her hand, exclaimed, not without a visible emotion, "I rejoice at your success, madam, and wish you all the happiness you deserve."

Julia could not help noticing his un-

easiness at this moment, but was unable to suggest any cause for it; she, however, replied, "that nothing could afford her more happiness, than that which contributed to his satisfaction."

The company, on the afore-mentioned intelligence, exhibited the highest gaiety; every countenance was lively, except that of Fitzherbert, who made all the efforts in his power to appear like the rest, but there was a heaviness on his heart, that made him a very indifferent imitator of their mirth. The party, at length, broke up, and the unhappy youth retired to indulge some very painful reflexions.

Every measure was immediately made use of to secure Julia's possessions; after which, a confidential person was dispatched abroad to make every proper arrangement, and likewise a stew-

ard

ard of integrity was appointed to the estates at home.

The sudden elevation of Julia had made an impression on Fitzherbert, not at all conducive to his peace.

When he considered his own slender stipend, and the wealth she had just acquired, he fell from those assurances which he had possessed of her attachment to him, and admitted an idea that her acquisitions might, in some degree, diminish her regard.

Impressed with these sentiments, he seldom approached the object of his affection but with an air of diffidence and distance, extremely painful to Julia, and which was highly distressing to his own feelings; at length, overcome with so uneasy a sensation, he suggested the thought of absence for a short time,

and resolved upon a visit to his foster parents.

In the mean time, the amiable Julia felt herself but little bettered by her acquirements.

There was but one circumstance on which she built the whole of her happiness—a reciprocal affection on the part of Fitzherbert—and soon as she discovered an abatement in this respect, not all the wealth of the universe could compensate for her uneasiness.

Often was she on the point of requesting an explanation, but a just sense of her own importance forbade it; at length, she resolved to leave it to time to develope the true cause that made her unhappy.

Fitzherbert, in her opinion, possessed qualities, which no one could ex-

cel.

cel. Julia had, in many instances, witnessed acts of generosity and heroism, which enhanced her opinion of his greatness and nobleness of soul.

This amiable youth, in a day or two after, left the castle. A tender scene ensued between the lovers, but there hung a cloud on his brow, which he endeavoured, in vain, to conceal.

Julia tried every means to sooth him under his affliction, but in vain—there appeared something like a want of confidence on his part, which, while it preyed upon the heart of Fitzherbert, considerably undermined the happiness of Julia.

He was received by Mr. and Mrs. Foster with every symptom of tenderness and joy.

They had nurtured for him the affection

tion of a parent from his infancy, and, though unacquainted from whom he was descended, entertained for him the same regard.

The circumstances of Fitzherbert's history were very mysterious and extraordinary. A person, having very much the appearance of a gentleman, brought him to a cottage one day, when he was about a twelvemonth old, and, depositing ten guineas, said he would come in a few weeks and make the nurse a further recompence, provided she would deal tenderly by him.

Dame Hawthorn put confidence in his assertions, and received the child with evident satisfaction; but she never saw the person who left him afterwards.

It was well for the infant that he

was committed to kind protection, as the nurse treated her charge with the same tenderness as her own, notwithstanding the failure of the promise made her.

It chanced one day as a lady and gentleman were passing the door of the cottage, they were struck with the appearance of the child; and, as they knew something of Dame Hawthorn, they stepped in to enquire who were its parents. The nurse related exactly what had happened, upon which Mr. Foster intimated a wish to have the child under his protection.

Dame Hawthorn, with tears, said she knew not how to part with him; and the gentleman, seeing her distress, declined pressing the matter any further.

Some time after the husband of the

nurse

nurse fell sick, and was totally incapable of working---a circumstance which put her to great straights.

Mr. Foster thought this a period when, by taking the child off her hands, he should render her considerable assistance; he, therefore, made a second application, and the good woman, not knowing how to support him as her heart inclined, at length consented to part with him.

Among the things belonging to the child, when left at Dame Hawthorn's, was discovered a miniature picture suspended from his neck. This the good woman carefully delivered to Mr. Foster when she surrendered her charge, who, observing some dust had got between the back and the painting, was induced to open it in order to clean it, when he remarked the

following words, written in a fine small hand:

"This child's name is Fitzherbert;
" his grandfather was supposed to be
" a man of considerable property, and
" resided in an old building in the
" north of England; but the writer
" of this, his son, could not, upon
" the most minute search, find any
" thing to justify the report; is now
" reduced to poverty and unable to
" support this tender pledge of an
" affectionate wife, who died the mo-
" ment of his birth. Should he re-
" turn from abroad he will take to
" his arms his beloved offspring, and
" make ample recompence to those
" who may kindly take the charge of
" him.

"CHARLES FITZHERBERT."

Mr. Foster grew very fond of the y, and, at a proper age, sent him to

to a school of note, where he became acquainted with Orlando.

On leaving school, that gentleman consulted the inclination of the youth he had adopted as to his future pursuits, and, finding him bent upon a military life, immediately purchased for him a pair of colours and equipped him, in every respect, on an equal footing with his associates.

Fitzherbert departed with tears, leaving his kind protectors a long time disconsolate at his absence.

The Reader may guess the ardency he was received with on his return; his kind guardians thought they had never experienced so happy an incident, and knew not how to set bounds to their joy on the occasion.

Fitzherbert was of a very open and

 ingenu-

ingenuous disposition, and where he knew he could put confidence, and the party had a right to be acquainted with his particular interests, he always made a point of unbosoming himself.

One day, as he was enjoying a private conference with Mr. Foster, he mentioned to him the friendship that subsisted between him and a young gentleman who had been his school-fellow, and also the companion of his toils; and, at the same time, in explicit terms, avowed his engagements with Julia.

Mr. Foster paused, and then observed—"I have no kind of objection, my dear Charles, to your forming an attachment with a young woman of good sense and discretion, except what arises from the difficulty of supporting her as you could wish. You

You know my heart, Fitzherbert; I could wish you to enjoy the whole that I possess; but that cannot be, as the estate is entailed; and, as I should be sorry to see a worthy young couple struggling under distress and poverty, I would have you defer your inclination till you are a year or two older."

Fitzherbert intimated that there could be no danger of either of those disasters, as the lady was come into the possession of two thousand pounds a year.—"But," added he, "that is the very reason why my passion has become hopeless, and that prompts me every now-and-then to a second campaign; not that I distrust the goodness of my Julia, for she is all loveliness and perfection; but the inequality of my circumstances forbids me to look up."

Mr. Foster was hurt at the dejection which had taken hold of his adopted son, and began seriously to reflect on the business.

He knew that riches frequently directed a person's views and notions into quite a different channel; and, having in his life time witnessed many instances of perfidy in this respect, he thought it not impossible, that the object of Fitzherbert's passion might fall into the same weakness, and resolved, therefore, when that gentleman again mentioned a campaign, whatever injuries it might do his feelings, he would second it to the utmost of his power.

Fitzherbert entered into some of the amusements about the neighbourhood, but they were all insipid. The idea of Julia was ever present with him. He at no period distrusted her con-

constancy, but lamented, in the bitterness of his heart, that fortune had made so wide a distinction between them.

In short, his chagrin increased every day to such a degree, that he resolved, after a severe conflict, to absent himself from his country for ever.

This resolution operated so strongly on him, that the next day he contracted for a commission in a regiment that was in a few days to depart for India.

Mr. Foster was totally unacquainted with the step he had taken, and, when it was communicated to him, felt a great deal of anxiety on the occasion; but satisfied himself it was better than a young man's falling a sacrifice to a hopeless passion.

He, therefore, took Charles to his bureau and presented him with two bank notes of 300l. each, and assured him, that whatever could be gained out of the estate should devolve only to him.

A few days before Fitzherbert's departure, he begged of his foster parents to inform him if they knew any thing of the particulars of his birth, intimating, that, although he had intended, on his arrival, to make the enquiry, in consequence of the affair of the abbey, which he then related, still the circumstance was of so delicate a nature as gave him pain when ever he attempted to introduce it; but, finding he could not quit England happily without some knowledge of his descent, curiosity would not suffer him to be any longer silent on the occasion.

Mr. Foster explained to him all he knew,

knew, and immediately produced the portrait, which he had carefully preserved from the knowledge of Fitzherbert, unwilling to raise expectations which he thought might never be realized.

This incident was an additional spur to his desire to pay a visit to Bellgrove, for which place he set out, after the most tender adieu to his kind protectors.

His return occasioned a general joy at the castle, and the whole family entertained hopes that he was come to make a long stay with them; but when he mentioned his engagement a silence ensued, with every token of sorrow and disappointment. As to poor Julia---such an intimation conveyed a shock which her frame could but ill sustain---she turned pale and precipitately quitted the room, and was

immediately followed by Monimia, who exhibited every symptom of distress at the situation of her friend. She came up to Julia just as the latter expressed---" Cruel Fitzherbert! is it thus my faithful attachment is requited!"

Monimia was silent for a while, well knowing that soothing terms, in cases of excessive sorrow, only render it more poignant; but when she saw her friend becoming a little composed, she used every endeavour to console her, observing, that Fitzherbert must certainly be influenced by some misunderstanding, which, perhaps, a little enquiry might have rectified.

" The very means," cried Julia, " that I thought would have crowned our happiness, seems to have become the bane of it. Oh! Monimia, need I say

I say to you how painful are the sensations of unrequited love!"

Julia had scarcely finished the sentence, when she fell into a swoon and was put to bed seriously indisposed.

Fitzherbert was too quick not to perceive the effect his avowal had produced upon Julia, and his heart smote him for so abruptly announcing what he must be sensible would occasion her distress.

Inexpressible was the emotion he felt at this moment, struggling between a sense of Julia's regard and the recollection of the step he had taken, which, in all probability, would occasion an interruption to their happiness for ever.

The moment she left the room his spirits failed, and he abruptly broke

off

off in a conversation and sat the figure of pensiveness and melancholy.

Orlando pitied his friend, and, to divert his gloom, asked him to take a turn or two in the garden.

They had not been long together before Fitzherbert explained the whole cause of the step he had taken---a confession which hurt Orlando much, as he well knew the sterling merit of his lovely friend Julia, and could not suppose her capable of any sordid change in her disposition.

He, therefore, rallied Fitzherbert on his weakness, and intreated him, if there was a possibility of so doing, to revoke his purpose.

"I have more than one reason," continued Orlando, "to wish your stay,

as, to-morrow, I had appointed you to accompany me to the abbey."

To which the other answered, "He would willingly go, if time would permit; but that, notwithstanding his sincere passion for Julia, he was afraid he could not recede from his engagement.

"Who knows, Bellgrove," cried Fitzherbert, in a sudden transport, "but I may return with an Asiatic fortune? and then, happiness and my Julia shall crown my efforts."

After a long conversation about the abbey (in which Fitzherbert expressed no confidence in any treasure being found, but shewed his readiness to accompany his friend) it was agreed between them, that they should proceed with all possible dispatch for that place the next day.

In

In the mean time, to the great joy of all at the castle, orders came to Fitzherbert, that the regiment was countermanded and another appointed to the destination.

This was intelligence at which he felt inexpressible satisfaction; but it did not do away the sentiment which had so long oppressed him.

He, however, set off with his friend, taking a tender leave of Julia, apparently in high spirits on the news he had received.

They arrived in the evening of the following day at the village, near the abbey, and, finding themselves rather fatigued, ordered supper to be got ready, intending to postpone every enquiry till the morning and to retire early to rest.

As

As they were conversing on the proceedings of the morrow, a confused noise was heard in the house, such as denoted a serious quarrel. This affair excited the curiosity of the gentlemen, and Orlando rang the bell to know the cause.

When the landlord appeared he apologized for the offence, observing, that "Tom Poundhard was never easy but when he was laying it about him.

"There's my old servant, now in your honour's service, will, I dare say, complain of a head-ach for a month to come."

"How!—Jerry in this house!"—cried Orlando with surprise.

"Your honour will not be angry with him, I dare say, when you hear

the

the whole. The poor fellow, I know, is honesty and fidelity itself."

At this instant the person of whom they were talking made his appearance, but in so woeful a condition that his master hardly knew him.

He was bare-headed, both his eyes nearly closed, his nose spouted out in torrents, and over a great part of his face appeared stains of human gore; his clothes were drenched with wet, which ran trickling down, and gave him the appearance of some river God; for our 'squire, it seems, not being aware of the insidious designs of his adversary, had in the contest been soused over head and ears in a large butt of water that stood exceedingly handy for the purpose.

Orlando thought there was a fatality hanging about Jerry's circumstances,

stances, as this was not the first time he had exhibited himself a spectacle hardly to be described.

"For Heaven's sake, Jerry," cried his master, "what has been the matter?"

"Only a few favours, your honour, I have received in your behalf, and such as I ought to prize the more, as they don't happen every day" (giving himself a hearty shake at the same time).

"Set yourself to rights a little," cried his master, "and then I will hear the sequel of your story."

Jerry retired with a very obsequious bow, and left the gentlemen wondering not a little at the cause of this fresh disaster.

Our

Our hero and his friend had just finished their supper, when Jerry made his second appearance quite in *propria persona.*

His master now asked him what had occasioned the altercation.

"Only a little mistake that one of your honour's workmen made, which I considered as an invasion on your property."

"Explain," said Orlando.

"Your honour recollects giving orders for the garden to be cleared about the abbey, and Tom Poundhard, (whose memory is very fresh upon my mind) in removing some faggots that surrounded the stem of a tree, observed a large rusty key concealed in a cavity of it.

In

In he came with his prize, and exulted in the thoughts of its fetching him a pot of beer.

" Aye, but stop," cried I, " call it your own property first, if you please.

" So it is," said he, " did not I find it?

" In vain did I try, your honour, logically to prove, that the finder of an article was not always the right owner. He left the room, and swore he would not part with it for any one.

" Some little time after I went in search of him, intending to purchase it, under the persuasion that it had been made for some place of importance in the abbey; (at this moment the two friends cast a look of curiosity at each other,) but not finding Poundhard where I expected, I came here.

here, your honour, and, attempting what I was not able to perform, encountered not a little rough treatment for my pains."

"Jerry," cried Orlando, "bring the man to me immediately."

The poor fellow requested his master not to put him on so perilous an undertaking.

The gentlemen smiled, and our hero was on the point of taking the office upon himself, when Jerry, seeing his intention, ran immediately down stairs to obey his order, not without enduring very uneasy sensations lest a fresh contest should ensue about the key. His fears, however, were soon at an end, as Poundhard had quitted the place.

Early the next morning a message was

was sent to him, with an offer of a reward for the key, but he was no where to be found.

Orlando, though vexed at the circumstance and half persuaded that the key might be of some important service to them, was resolved to commence his search,

Badinaldo was appointed the guide, and they traversed the extent of one side of the building without observing any thing more than decayed rooms and apartments dropping in ruins. They were now on the point of returning, when, our hero expressing himself rather louder than usual, an echo ensued which astonished them.

Though there was no visible appearance of any room beyond that they were in, mere curiosity induced them

to

to make a search about the place, and at last Fitzherbert perceived something like a spring in a pannel, which stood concealed behind two buttresses.

Orlando thought this contrivance meant something, and while they were debating how they should manage the spring, the former made a stroke at the pannel with his cane, when a door, that had been most ingeniously concealed, flew open and discovered to them a room of a spacious size.

Orlando and Fitzherbert, on traversing this apartment, observed a library of books of extensive size, but the damp had totally covered them with mould, and the dust with which they were covered made them appear like a huge mass of black earth; and so long had they continued unnoticed, that the pigeons, which had found their

their way into the room, had made several nests in the cavities between the rows.

In different parts were found instruments of a very curious shape, which time and neglect had totally disfigured with rust.

While Fitzherbert was paying minute attention to these articles, Orlando, with main force, pushed open a small closet door, in which he found a cabinet, and on opening it, an operation, however, which was not effected without great difficulty, he discovered a great quantity of coins and medals; one of which being of a remarkable size, attracted his particular attention.

On rubbing off some of the rust, our hero plainly observed an inscription, which, on minute examination, appear-

ed to be "Charles Fitzherbert, Philomath."

His satisfaction on this discovery was inexpressible, and he ran immediately to his friend, to acquaint him with it.

Fitzherbert examined the medal, and immediately exclaimed, "Good Heavens! this is, surely, a device of my grandfather."

The success which they had met with here, induced them to suppose that the old gentleman had concealed his treasure in the same place.

They were, therefore, indefatigable in their researches; but after every possible investigation, nothing of the kind was to be found, and they returned.

In the afternoon they took the opposite

site side of the abbey, and finding no success, supposed the property to lay hid in the subterraneous parts of the abode.

The next day, with their attendants, they set about exploring the lower part of the abbey, but in this attempt encountered many difficulties, having several cavities and intricate places to pass, which put them to great inconvenience.

They, at last, began to be weary of the pursuit, and Fitzherbert, who appeared to have less interest in the inquiry than his friend, advised a retreat.

Orlando, though exceedingly anxious to find out what would be of such advantage to his friend, was, nevertheless, about giving in to his advice, when Jerry, who was uncommonly diligent on his part, observed on a sudden a

ray of light, which glanced obliquely on a part they had not yet noticed.

Curiosity induced them to force the door, which led them into a circular place, appearing to be the extremity of their pursuit.

While they were taking a minute survey of this apartment, they were surprised by a violent call from Jerry, who, it seems, by treading on some boarded place that was become decayed and rotten, had been precipitated into a hollow place underneath.

The whole party flew immediately to his relief, and with the assistance of the light, observed a flight of stairs, in so ruinous a state, that it was with difficulty they could descend to extricate him.

Orlando was glad to find his servant had

had sustained no injury, and so unexpected an incident prompted him to proceed further in his search.

There was only one avenue leading to the room they were in---this, the two friends felt a sudden impulse to explore. They traversed the passage, and at length arrived at a very small apartment, having a massy iron door in front.

A strong impression now seized Orlando that they had arrived at the spot which contained the object of their search.

The curiosity of the two friends was now raised to the highest degree, they examined every part of this ponderous security, and observed it was fastened, without either bolt or bar.

It appeared to have a lock, but of so particular a figure and shape, that nei-

ther of the persons present, could suggest how it could be opened.

The key which Poundhard had secreted came forcibly into their minds, but Jerry described it as bearing no sort of resemblance to the lock they had just inspected.

While they were examining the minutest parts of the door, and the places with which it stood connected, Badinaldo observed a lock of a smaller size in a post adjoining the door, and to their infinite satisfaction, this appeared to correspond with the key Orlando had been so anxious to obtain.

While they were deliberating, Fitzherbert grasped a stone of immense size which lay on the floor, and cast it with all his strength at the door, but it appeared immoveable, and served to convince the whole party that their suc-

cess

cess must depend more on ingenuity than force: under this persuasion they all retired, not a little mortified at their disappointment.

The next day, our hero sent various expresses after Poundhard, who at length found him at work at some distant part, being ashamed to return after what had happened.

The messengers, however, returned, but with very unsatisfactory intelligence for him, Poundhard having disposed of the key for a paltry sum, to a travelling pedlar.

Orlando now had no other resource, than by applying to the most ingenious locksmiths, who one, and all, upon inspection, confessed it beyond their art to effect any thing successfully upon either of the locks.

 "How

"How provoking, Charles," cried he, to his friend, "to be thus baulked at the moment of expectation."

"Pshaw! pshaw!" replied Fitzherbert; "don't be disconcerted—perhaps, after all, this same door may lead only to some vault, containing merely coffins and mouldering bones."

For two days did Orlando experience the greatest chagrin, at not being able further to prosecute his researches.

His mind, notwithstanding the remark of Fitzherbert, experienced a confidence, almost to assurance itself, that a treasure was secreted in the place to which he was denied access.

Under such a persuasion he racked his brain to devise means to recover, if possible, the key; and for this pur-

pose,

pose, dispatched Jerry to traverse a certain extent of the country, in search of the pedlar.

Jerry returned at the close of the day, just as his master and Fitzherbert were returning from a walk they had taken about the village.

The poor fellow, soon as he approached, exclaimed with enthusiastic joy, "I thought I should be able to do your honour some service in the course of my life," and immediately began capering about in an ecstasy.

"Jerry," cries his master, "explain the cause of this transport," looking rather seriously at the same time.

"O, your honour will not be angry with me, I dare say, when you see this pretty little instrument," exhibiting a key.

Orlando and Fitzherbert felt an instantaneous persuasion, from the singularity of its appearance, that it would answer to the smallest lock in the post by the iron door.

After Jerry had described his having obtained it from a Jew, at a public-house, who had bought it of the pedlar for a groat, Orlando and Fitzherbert, with their attendant, returned home with speed, being determined, without loss of time, to try the experiment.

Accompanied by the same attendants, they descended once more into the cavern, and impatiently applied the key to the smaller lock, but it did not appear to fit. They tried every effort, but were baffled in their attempts; at length, remarking that the rust with which it was incrusted impeded its utility, Jerry was dispatched for a file, with which Orlando soon cleared off a part of the incumbrance. The

The instrument was now applied a second time, and immediately answered the purpose.

It moved with the greatest facility, and by its operation, suddenly opened a small cavity in the iron door, which was so concealed, as to escape the notice of the most curious eye.

In this aperture they discovered a large key, of a most ingenious form, which they immediately applied to the larger lock, when it instantaneously flew open, and admitted them into an abode, where they soon discovered something which afforded them almost certain signs of success.

During these transactions at the abbey, the baron and Dr. Pritchards conversed frequently on the probable success of their young friends undertakings; and their curiosity, one day, arose to

such a pitch, that they resolved upon a visit to that place.

They had it likewise in contemplation to extend their journey to Horrordale Castle, to which place, they thought Orlando would direct his steps, after the investigation had taken place; and in such an instance they could all proceed in a company.

In their setting out on a former journey to that place, they had a double object in view; first to trace Julia and Monimia, and then to pay a visit to the spot described by the dying man at the haystack, which was prevented, by the receipt of a letter, stating Orlando's arrival in England, and his subsequent discovery of the ladies.

A day was accordingly appointed for the expedition, which the baron and the doctor had decided upon.

In

In the mean time, all Fitzherbert's friends at the castle became highly interested in the success of the enterprize he was engaged in.

The baron and baroness had conceived a partiality for him at first sight, and had both been not inattentive observers of his attachment to Julia for some time; a circumstance, with which they were extremely well satisfied, as, in their opinion, he possessed qualifications that could not fail to render her happy.

Fitzherbert, indeed, as well as the amiable Orlando, became the constant theme of discourse—Monimia admired the choice of her friend, and earnestly longed to see the day, when their interests, as well as their hearts, should be united.

To both Julia and Monimia their present amusements seemed dull. They wanted,

wanted, indeed, the fascinating charms of love, to give them a true and effectual zest; and they sighed for the return of those, who only could bestow life and pleasure to their respective entertainments.

The two friends, however, sought for satisfaction, not unfrequently in the company of little Henry, who was now grown a most engaging prattler, and often made them smile with his arch remarks on Mr. Bellgrove and Mr. Fitzherbert.

The little fellow was sensible enough to know that these names sounded very agreeably to them, and would now-and-then exclaim, "Don't you think, ladies, that the two gentlemen who live at the castle are very handsome?" upon which, Monimia and Julia would turn aside their heads, to avoid being seen to smile, and afterwards chide him for

often talking on the subject.

Henry was a boy of a very promising disposition, and often exhibited instances of a good heart—one, in particular, we must not omit:

As he was walking one day with Julia, there came up to them a man in great distress.—"Dear aunt," exclaims the benevolent boy, "do give that poor man something—you have some money of mine, you know, but don't part with the new shilling which Miss Pritchards gave me."

Julia complied with his request, and Henry bestowed his benefaction, exhibiting the greatest satisfaction at the event.

The baroness, to enliven the hours in the absence of the baron and the doctor, who were now gone to the abbey, contrived a variety of amusements,

amongst

amongst which, she was particularly delighted with aquatic excursions.

There was a noble river near them, and that lady, with her two young friends, one day having stepped into the boat, were conducted to a spot, where a cluster of alders, which hung over the river, formed a delightful alcove.

Here they secured the boat, and commenced their favourite amusement of fishing.

The ladies had uncommon success this day, and Monimia, being eager to add to the stock a large fish she had hooked, incautiously leaned too much over the sides, and the boat, at that moment, taking a sudden jerk, she was instantaneously precipitated into the river, and carried down by the stream, before assistance could be given.

The

The baroness and Julia shrieked, and became frantic; when suddenly a person, who was seen to stand near, plunged into the water, and rescued Monimia from destruction.

This gallant preserver conveyed her, apparently lifeless, into the boat, and she was immediately taken to the castle, where, by proper application, she was soon restored; a circumstance, which relieved the baroness and Julia of the most torturing apprehensions.

The youth who had performed so noble an exploit having accompanied the ladies to the castle, and waited to know the event of the applications used, now begged to depart; having a long journey to undertake.

The baroness requested to be informed of the place of his destination, upon which,

which, the other replied, "Myrtle Cottage."

"Myrtle Cottage!" exclaims the baroness, with surprise.

"Do you recollect a gentleman who lodged at your house a day or two, some years back?"

"Yes, madam," cries the youth; "that gentleman I have often thought of, and should be delighted to see him again."

"That is not at all unlikely," says the baroness, "as he is on his way to Horrordale Castle; and, I am sure, will not fail to pay a visit to the cottage."

At this, the youth betrayed great satisfaction, and after an agreeable conversation with the baroness, who complimented him with a handsome present, departed for his home. In

In a day or two Monimia was quite recovered, to the great joy of her friends, who had experienced very serious alarm on her account.

## CHAPTER VII.

As Jerry was making his observations on the grounds about the abbey, he discovered the approach of a coach-and-four, a circumstance he immediately apprized his master of; who, to his surprise and satisfaction, found it contained the baron and his worthy friend the doctor.

The most friendly salutations prevailed on all sides, and Orlando, soon as his visitants were conveniently accommodated, acquainted them with the particulars of their researches.

He

He had continued the narrative as far as the discovery of the key, and then proceeded :—

'Having gained admission, we explored the cavern, and observed in one corner of it an immense iron chest,which we found could only be opened by the smaller key, which gained us admittance.

'Upon inspecting this article, we found several drawers, many of them empty; but one contained a large packet, and another a great quantity of loose guineas and pieces of gold coin.

'Upon further search we discovered a box, so ingeniously contrived, as to form part of the chest; upon search, it contained bank notes, to the amount of seven thousand pounds: and upon them was carefully laid a portrait, which, upon comparison, appeared to be the exact counter-

counterpart of that left with Fitzherbert's nurse.

'On examining the papers we found, in addition to the abbey, the old gentleman possessed an estate in Hertfordshire, to the amount of eight hundred pounds a year; and likewise another in Bedfordshire, from whence he derived nearly double that sum; the whole of which was formerly bequeathed to his son Charles, or to his grandson, of that name, should he ever live to make a discovery of the papers and portrait.

'Orlando concluded, by observing, I think my dear friend may now think himself rich enough, at any rate, to be happy—and pouring out a glass at the same time, congratulated him in the most affectionate terms on his good fortune.'

The

The whole room became one scene of joy at this discovery, and the day was spent with the greatest harmony and delight.

The next day, the baron advised Fitzherbert to employ an attorney, and to set off immediately to take possession of his estates; but the grateful youth expressed the strongest inclination to accompany his friend to Horrordale, asserting, that he should also like to witness the good fortune of one who had taken so much interest to promote his own.

A few days after, when Orlando had made some necessary arrangements in the abbey, and Fitzherbert had dispatched a well qualified person to inspect his estates, the party sat off for Horrordale, a place which gave our hero much disgust as soon as the turrets came

came in view, on a recollection of what he had endured.

When they had knocked a long time at the castle gates, an old man came to inquire their business. Orlando desired him to conduct them into the castle, and at the same time inquired how many servants there were in the place. " I am the only one," replies the man, "and God knows, that is one too many, for I am almost starved to death."

" What," cries our hero, " has no provision been made for you ?"

" Alas, sir! my situation has not been very comfortable, my place being always at the command of my lord's valet, who has all along behaved so distant, and resided so little in the place, that it was as much as I could do to keep myself alive."

Orlando

Orlando desired the man to shew him into a decent apartment, at the same time ordered Jerry to ride to the next town, and procure every necessary provision.

The baron and his son now entered into conversation about the situation of the castle, and the whole party confessed that it was an abode calculated to inspire the mind with continual horror.

So disgusted were they with the gloominess of the place, that they determined to take their dinner at the nearest neighbouring town.

At the moment of their departing for this purpose, Jerry came running into the room, and in a state of agitation exclaimed, "O, the lady! the lady Monimia!"

" Say, what! What is the intelligence

you bring ?" cried Orlando, with emotion—Jerry replied, "She's drowned, she's drowned."

The company present were all amazement and confusion, and our hero, with distraction in his countenance, raved out for him to explain.

Jerry then in a state of terror informed him,—'that he had been in company at a certain place, where he heard a youth describe a lady, whose name was Monimia, and residing at Bellgrove Castle, having tumbled into the river near that spot.'

The doctor was nearly overcome with the intelligence, and Orlando, in all the agonies of despair, exclaimed, "did you not inquire whether she was preserved, or not ?"

Jerry answered in the negative, and left the company in all the horrors of suspense. Just

Just at this moment a knocking was heard at the gate, and Jerry ran to see who was the visitor, and almost instantaneously returned with the identical young man from whom he heard the story.

Orlando thought he recognised something of the stranger, and an explanation soon took place, by which he understood that he was talking to a son of his old friend, farmer Myrtle.

To the joy of the whole party also, young Myrtle explained the whole particulars of Monimia's accident, and by so doing, as it may well be supposed, relieved the doctor and Orlando from the most awful suspense and uneasiness, while the intelligence at the same time gave inexpressible pleasure and satisfaction to all present.

The baron and his party now sat off,

agreeably to their proposal, and insisted upon the company of the young farmer, promising at the same time to pay a visit to his father, in the course of the day.

They found every conveniency at the place they resorted to, and conferred a great deal about the affairs of Horrordale Castle.

Orlando, since his arrival, had ordered the most strict investigation to be made throughout the building, and directed Badinaldo to continue the search, with the view of discovering any papers of importance that might relate to the estate.

It however was the sentiment of the whole party, that more was to be obtained by examining the field; a spot which had been mentioned in a very remarkable manner, not only by the man of

of the haystack, but also by Osmond himself.

The next day was therefore appointed to inspect into the particulars of that affair.

Orlando and the company found farmer Myrtle busy in attending his domestic concerns.

Soon as the latter beheld his visitors, he desisted from his employment, and with all the respect and hospitality so peculiar to him, ushered them into his abode; while his invaluable spouse, with an activity and cheerfulness, quite natural to her, soon prepared a repast, with which they immediately regaled themselves.

The baron contrived, while they were at the cottage, to have a separate con-

ference with Myrtle, for whom he had formed the most friendly respect.

Finding him in the orchard alone, after a little preliminary discourse, "I have," cries the former to the latter, "observed that your family is large; and, though there is every appearance of your being able to support them with the greatest credit and respectability, yet it would no doubt be additional satisfaction to you to leave some provision for them at your decease."

Myrtle replied, "that though he was as happy as any man could be, yet a thought of that sort sometimes mixed a little bitter in his cup of felicity; however, continued the farmer, I am contented with what I have, and trust to Providence for the rest."

"That's noble, my honest friend," cried

cried the baron; "It's a sentiment that warms my heart.

"However," continued he, after a pause, "If something still more advantageous, than what you at present possess, should present itself, you would not, I dare say, refuse it.

"I have upon one of my estates a farm of tolerable extent, possessing a delightful situation and numerous advantages; and, from the respect I bear your family, could wish you to become the tenant of it."

The farmer blushed, and hesitated for a reply.

"I understand you," cries the baron, "you are afraid of embarking in larger concerns, lest you should involve your family. I admire so generous a reflexion; but say at once you will take

 posses-

possession of it, and leave the hazard on my shoulders."

Myrtle was overcome with the generosity of the baron, which he repeatedly endeavoured, in the most respectful manner to decline, as having no pretensions to expect such bounty from him: but the latter was determined in his design, and the same day presented him with authority to take possession of the farm.

While the baron and Myrtle were absent, Fitzherbert and Orlando amused themselves with the children, and the doctor was engaged in a conversation with Mrs. Myrtle.

"I wish," cries a little boy, who was in discourse with Fitzherbert, "that I had such a new rocking-horse as Billy Bramble has got, who lives down yonder lane."

That

That such an article should be in the possession of a miserable cottager, appeared somewhat surprising to the gentleman whom he addressed, who taking the child by the hand, desired him to shew where this article of amusement was kept.

Just as they came within a few paces of the cottage, Fitzherbert saw a man enter, having something of a genteel appearance.

There was a hastiness in his walk, and the dress he wore appeared like a disguise.

The singularity of his manner excited Fitzherbert's curiosity, and he hoped on entering the cottage to obtain some further knowledge of him.

Soon as they arrived, the stranger seemed to be engaged in a whispering

 dialogue,

dialogue, with the man of the house; but no sooner observed fresh visitants, than starting, and muffling himself up in his long cloak, rushed by, and in a precipitate manner quitted the place.

Fitzherbert thought such conduct not a little mysterious, but supposed he should learn more of the affair by a conversation with the cottager, without inquiring into the business in direct terms.

"This little man," cries he, "has been talking wonderfully of the rocking-horse you have here; it is, no doubt, an excellent play-thing for children."

"Very much indeed so," replies the man, "and I am sure the gentleman that was here just now, was very good to think so kindly of my children."

"Oh! it was a present from that gentleman, was it?" "Yes,

"Yes, your honour; he is rather odd in his way, but has at times been very kind to me.

"Poor man," continued the cottager, "he must take after something, I am very sure, for he always appears dull, and very frequently talks to himself."

Fitzherbert did not choose to appear curious, and distributing something among the children, took his departure.

On his return he communicated the circumstance to Orlando, who appeared to think it a mystery worth looking into, and the two friends watched an opportunity to pay a visit to the cottage by themselves, where they had been but a little while, when a man, in a singular dress approached, as if intending to enter, but seeing strange company, turned hastily aside and fled.

Orlando caught a slight glimpse of him, and beheld a face which he was conscious he had seen before; and to satisfy himself on that point, made many inquiries of the cottager, but the latter was become quite reserved, nor could they learn any thing more, than that the gentleman had been a great benefactor to him.

The party staid at Myrtle's till dusk, and not liking the accommodations of the castle, returned for the night to the inn.

The next day they repaired to the field, having provided proper implements; and it was with no small difficulty they identified the spot, which they had been directed to.

Badinaldo and Jerry began the operation. They kept digging for some time, and at length espied a coffin, on which

was placed a small iron box; on opening the coffin, there appeared a human skeleton, almost mouldered into dust.

Orlando ordered the whole to be conveyed to the castle, and the grave being filled up, they returned thither to inspect the contents of the box.

On opening this instrument, he found a will, signed by Lord Horrordale, by which he bequeathed the whole of his property to Orlando Bellgrove, son of Baron Bellgrove.

The baron turned pale as he read this paper, suggesting an idea, that the relics in the coffin were the bones of his relation, and that he had been murdered.

The rest of the company, though they did not entertain a doubt of that circumstance, would not countenance him in

an

an opinion, that must render him a long time wretched.

It was agreed upon, that every inquiry should be made concerning Lord Horrordale, but there was no one to examine but the old man, who could give no kind of intelligence to the purpose, and Badinaldo, who was never at all in his lordship's service.

Badinaldo, however, represented that he had heard something that related to the original proprietor of the castle.

'When first I came into Osmond's service, he had two companions, which were scarce ever absent from him; and so great was his attachment to them, that he scarcely ever went out, but in their company.

'One day I was ordered to attend them, and after we had rode to a certain

tain distance, was desired to take care of their horses, as they intended to walk across a few fields, and then return.

'Impelled with an unaccountable curiosity, and dangerous as I knew the experiment to be, I dismounted, and fastening the bridle to an arm of a tree, crept along till I came nearly even to where they stood.

'Osmond and his companions seemed to be in a very serious debate.'

"I tell you, sir," cried one of them to him, "there is not the least danger of a discovery; Lord Hortordale was too litte cared for to rouse any inquiry, and his bones may lay here till doomsday, before the manner of his death is discovered. Now we have done the deed, of what service is fear?"

"But

"But the will! the right will!" exclaimed Osmond.

"Let it remain where it is—it will be equally as secure as the other," was the reply.

"Well, then," observes he, "if that be your opinion, so be it."

'I thought this a finishing sentence, and flew to my horse; and, by good luck, mounted him by the time they returned.'

The baron grew sick at the recital, which seemed a full confirmation of his fears, and became so indisposed, as to be under the necessity of going to bed; but the following day, was so far recovered, as to be able to hold a consultation about his relation's interment, which took place the same afternoon, in

one

one of the chapel vaults, Dr. Pritchards conducting the service with great solemnity.

After the doctor had concluded the ceremony, he retired with the baron, to whom he imparted every consolation he could suggest; while Orlando and Fitzherbert staid to survey some of the antiquities of the chapel.

As they were noticing a certain tablet, with very earnest attention, they heard a deep groan, which seemed to proceed from somewhere near them.

The two friends cast their eyes around, but could observe no adjoining apartment, nor any recess.

A heavy sigh now arrested their attention, which convinced them some dying person was concealed, at no great distance.

They

They therefore used all diligence in exploring the minutest parts of the chapel; at length, Fitzherbert discovered a square stone, which seemed to lay rather looser than the rest, it had, also, a small ring at one end, the meaning of which, neither of them could suggest for some time; at length, Orlando taking his handkerchief from his pocket, passed it through the space of the ring, and attempted, by pulling with all his force, to raise the tablet, but it was of such weight, that he could only lift it a little way; Fitzherbert observing this, immediately assisted him, and by extreme force and exertion, at length, they drew up this ponderous security.

A dark cavern immediately appeared before them—Fitzherbert ran for lights, and on his return, Orlando observing a ladder in a corner of the chapel, lowered it into the vault, and descended with his friend.

When

When they arrived in the cell, they found an unfortunate wretch, extended on a bed of straw, apparently famished, dying, and chained to the wall.

Such a spectacle almost made them recoil at the first—his cheeks were sunk to the bone; his eyes hollow and wistful; and his whole countenance, sallow and ghastly; while his body was wasted to anatomy.

The two friends left him for a moment, to collect every proper assistance; some wine and cordials were administered, and when it was supposed such an experiment would not endanger him, he was released of the chain that held him.

Orlando, at the same time, directed that a bed should be brought into the vault, as it was deemed hazardous to remove the unhappy sufferer; Badinaldo also

also had instructions to attend him, and render him every succour required—for all which, the unfortunate prisoner seemed to be affected with the strongest sense of gratitude.

Though our hero was encompassed with a multiplicity of concerns at this juncture, he could not check his curiosity to know more of the mysterious man of the cottage.

He therefore invited Fitzherbert to accompany him there, and on entering into conversation with the owner of the habitation, they found him a great deal more communicative.

The cottager informed our visitants that it was his opinion the stranger had quitted the neighbourhood for ever, as he came, in a great hurry and agitation, to be informed where he could hire a horse, as he wanted to visit a distant part of the country, without delay.

" Upon my appearing incapable of informing him," continued the man, " he walked off, exhibiting strange gestures, and muttering oaths and curses."

" What was his name?" cried Orlando.

" I cannot say, positively," answered the cottager; " but I think I have heard him called Flint."

A moment's reflexion now convinced our hero that the person he had so concerned himself about, was no other than his old tutor, the reverend Mr. Flint; and by his hovering about the spot, was moreover persuaded that he had been engaged in several of the atrocities perpetrated at Horrordale Castle.

Under the influence of this opinion he was determined to spare no pains to have

have the miscreant brought to condign punishment.

In the mean time the sick man recovered fast, and the company were very desirous to know the history of his misfortunes, but appearing reluctant, the baron intimated that an ample confession would be treated in the most candid and favourable manner, upon which, the unfortunate wretch proceeded, as follows:

'It is with the greatest remorse, sirs, that I reflect at having been privy, if not accessary, to more than one horrid outrage, committed in this place,

'During my confinement I have been convinced, in the most woful manner, that no faith is to be put in wicked connexions, and that sooner or later vice will meet with its reward.

'Had

'Had I pursued the honest occupation I had been accustomed to, I should have escaped the tortures of body which befel me, as well as the agonies of mind I now endure.

'A bribe made me forget the tender feelings of a father, and I winked at the murder of my child, in hopes of a reward.

'The lord of this domain inhumanly scourged him, for a very trifling offence, to such a degree, that in two days he died; and to escape inquiry about the affair, invited me into his service, with the promise of a large reward—I consented, but from that day to this, have never received any compensation.

'From the mildness he at first shewed, he became, at length, a complete tyrant; and when I hinted to him the calamity he had brought upon me, my

remon-

remonstrance was treated with contempt.

' I now began to live in fear of such a master; and the cruelty he practised at times, made me shudder.

' After I had been some time in the service of the first lord, he died suddenly, and most of the servants being discharged immediately, and what were left, sent out of the way for a while, we none of us knew when or where Lord Horrordale was buried.

" Soon after this there came a young lord, who took possession of the castle, and I was instructed by him, should any person arrive, laying claims to the place, to entrap him into some of the subterraneous abodes. I contrived the machinery, and was directed, the next day, to surprise and murder the prisoner; and upon hesitating, and making some

some remonstrance, the cruel valet, who superintended matters, seized a dagger, and aimed it at my heart---it took a slanting direction, and went through part of my side.'

"Good Heavens!" cries Orlando, "are you the unhappy man I saw bleeding on one of the landing-places of the castle?"

'Gracious Providence!' exclaimed the man, recognizing the features of Orlando, 'how kind are thy decrees: a small effort of humanity has not, I see, been despised; but rewarded with a delivery from the worst of tortures.

'I lay bleeding for some time after you left me; when one of my comrades took compassion on me, and removed me carefully into a little closet where was a bed, and soon after, brought me some applications, which had an asto-

nishing effect in healing the wound, and affording me ease.

'As I lay meditating on the misfortunes my unnatural behaviour had brought upon me, on a sudden, a loud voice exclaimed, "Where is the treacherous villain?" and in a moment I saw Osmond at my bed-side.

'In his hand glittered a naked dagger—"What!" cried he, as he took a survey of me, "Is not one attempt sufficient? Then, by Heavens"---here he was on the point of directing the fatal instrument, when suddenly recollecting himself, with a malicious sneer exclaimed, "No, I will not release you so easily:---here, Rufo," continued he, "attend the wretch with all possible care, see that he is cured, and then he shall know the effects of my revenge;" so saying, he turned upon his heel, and departed.

'In

'In the course of a month I was quite recovered, when I received a second visit.

"I find," said Osmond, "that you are quite ripe for my purpose.

"Here!" exclaimed he, to one of the attendants, "convey this malefactor to his abode;" upon which, I was instantly forced into the dungeon in which you discovered me.

'For nearly three years, as far as I can guess, have I been immured in that horrid place, enduring unheard-of cruelties; when, lately, I missed my accustomed fare, and must have inevitably perished, but for a kind Providence, which certainly sent you to my relief.'

After a pause of some time, till the unfortunate man recovered himself, Orlando questioned him a little, con-

cerning the bones that lay scattered about in the various subterraneous caverns.

‘ I do not recollect,’ cries the former, ‘ the transactions which produced the awful relics you speak of.’

“ But you can tell us something of the skeleton which I saw suspended against the wall.”

The sick man, with a groan, exclaimed, ‘ perhaps there never was an instance of cruelty surpassing that.

‘ Lord Horrordale, in one of his excursions about the wilds and desarts of this place, met with an accident that obliged him to dismount and solicit assistance at a cottage a short distance off.

‘ The peasant received his guest with the

the greatest civility, and was very assiduous to render him all the assistance in his power.

‘ In a little time his lordship was able to proceed, when just as he was departing, a beautiful young damsel entered the cottage, who, it seems, was the cottager’s daughter. Lord Horrordale was smitten with her charms, and making some pretence, contrived to stay till such time as he could enter into conversation with her, and gaze upon her beauty.

‘ When he had satisfied himself thus far, he arose to depart, and carried away sentiments, highly destructive to the peace of his benevolent host.

‘ Some days after, by watching and perseverance, he contrived to have an interview with Fanny apart from the cottage, and began to talk in a strain

 which,

which, unaccustomed as she was to expressions of love, covered her with blushes, and threw her into a confusion, which, far from disgusting her admirer, irritated his passion the more.

'The innocent girl fled, upon his lordship increasing his solicitations, and just as she arrived at home, her father met her, and surprised at her agitation, inquired the cause, but she could make no reply.'

"I'll inform you," answered her persecutor; "I have been saying some trifling things to her, and the girl is foolish enough to be alarmed."

'The cottager was not at all pleased with his lordship's behaviour, and waving all ceremony, shut the door in his face.

'Lord Horrordale could at no time bear

bear the smallest contradiction, much less, downright contempt.

' His malicious soul took fire at a circumstance so mortifying to his pride, and he quitted the spot, muttering curses and revenge.

' When he got home, he set all his engines to work, to punish the affront; and at length accomplished his purpose, by carrying off the unhappy maiden.

' The old man was in a state, bordering on distraction, when he discovered his loss, as his daughter was his only pride, his only care.

' It was not long before he was informed who was the disturber of his peace, and having made his way to the castle, with tears and groans intreated his lordship to surrender up his daughter, but he was deaf to his intreaties,

and even had the barbarity to invite him to behold the ruined form of his darling offspring.

'The interview was such as would render any one dumb with sorrow; at length, the old man, driven to phrensy at the sight, snatched up a dagger that lay near, and aimed a blow at my lord, but failed in his attempt.

'The latter instantly called his attendants, and ordered him to a cell, and to be fastened with a chain to the wall.

'The unfortunate man lifted up his eyes, and exclaimed, "Thank God, my misery will soon be over; but know, villain, yours will be eternal:" upon which, Lord Horrordale ordered him immediately out of his sight.

'At the moment the unhappy man was forced away, his miserable daughter would

would have followed him—with uplifted hands, and streaming eyes, she implored his lordship to spare her father, but he was inexorable.

'In a little time the old man pined to death, and the daughter was compelled to be the mistress of his murderer; but grief soon put a period to her woes.'

"Heaven defend us from such barbarity!" cried the company, and Orlando, from an impulse of indignation at such monstrous atrocities, instantly gave orders that the castle should be investigated, and every instance of mortality decently consigned to the grave.

He particularly directed that the remains of the unfortunate old man should be released, and placed in a coffin, for interment.

The company now had heard sufficient, to be totally disgusted with their situation; and Orlando having witnessed his commands very particularly attended to, shortly after disposed of the whole building to an army agent, and Horrordale Castle was soon converted into barracks, being a very commodious spot for looking after the smugglers, who, in great bodies, had long infested the circumjacent parts.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER VIII.

BELLGROVE Castle was all alive on the arrival of the travellers.

The ladies had some intimation of their being on the road, and came part of the way to meet them. The highest joy and satisfaction took place at their meeting; Orlando embraced his Monimia, and Fitzherbert was not at all behind hand in his overtures to Julia, whom he accosted with a cheerfulness and unreserve, highly conducive to her happiness.

Our hero, soon as leisure would

admit, made several inquiries after Flint, whom he was informed, had taken up his abode at no great distance from the cottage where he had discovered him, to which place he sent emissaries to apprehend him.

The applications, however, which were made, served only to convince him of the certain effects of wickedness and inhumanity, the Rev. Mr. Flint having put an end to his existence, leaving a kind of penitential confession of his crimes; in which it appeared, that in conjunction with his brother Judas, he had prompted Osmond, first of all to the murder of Lord Horrordale, and then to a forgery of the will; and that they had pursued a course of the most arbitrary, cruel, and tyrannical nature, ever since.

Flint appeared to have perpetrated his own death in so deliberate a manner, that he was buried in a cross-road, accompanied

companied with the detestation and invectives of all the surrounding spectators.

The baron and baroness now began to survey their family with their former delight.

The increasing attachment between the young folks, their congeniality of sentiment and soul, and the prospect of their future bliss, conspired to make this the happiest period of their lives.

There was nothing now stood in the way of an union between the lovers; and after a serious discourse, in which the ladies appeared unusually shy, a day was appointed for the nuptials of the young folks.

It was thought expedient, however, previous to this affair, that Fitzherbert should pay a general visit to his tenants,

for

for the purpose of thoroughly establishing himself in his estates.

Orlando insisted upon accompanying him, and the two friends, after bidding the most tender adieu to the objects of their affection, took their departure for Hertfordshire.

Fitzherbert, on application to his tenants, became informed of the residence of the person who had a long time the management of them.

Mr. Sterling at first paid but little attention to his discourse, having some doubts of the justness of his pretensions; but the former producing unquestionable authority, the latter intimated to him, that at the demise of the old gentleman, no will being found, he had taken the whole property in charge for the heir at law, whom upon inquiry he found was gone abroad, and having learned

learned the place of his residence, sent to apprise him of the event, but received for answer, that the person he had directed the intelligence to was dead. The steward then further remarked, that he had used every means to come at the knowledge of the grandson, but without effect; it was conjectured his father had taken him abroad, but that did not appear to be the case, as they had never seen him. He had, however, resolved to manage the estates with as much prudence as possible, till time should bring him forward with his claim.

"During the life of your grandfather," continued the steward, "the estates were suffered to run entirely to decay; so that, after giving them a thorough repair, I have not been able to save more than 3,000l.: but when it is considered all fresh expences are removed for many years to come, you will

will not, I trust, be displeased with my conduct."

Fitzherbert expressed himself highly satisfied with such excellent management, and presented him with the whole of that sum.

He then took Mr. Sterling with them in their journey to his other estates, and was highly delighted to observe the excellent condition in which the whole appeared; and at the same time commended the steward for his excellent economy and management.

All the tenants seemed greatly delighted with the good-nature and affability of their new landlord, and not a few were the conquests which the fine persons of our heros made on the hearts of the rural damsels.

Fitz-

Fitzherbert strove to mollify the condition of all those he found in distress, and displayed so many acts of beneficence, that he was adored where ever he came.

So charmed was he with the unaffected felicity of all around, that he could have spent whole years in such a happy circle; but, during the height of these blissful scenes, his heart was at Bellgrove Castle, where he longed to return, and, for this purpose, staid not a moment longer at any of the places than business necessarily required.

Our travellers were now on their way-home, forming the most rapturous ideas of their approaching happiness.

They had proceeded about nearly half

half the way when their attention was taken up with something of an extraordinary occurrence.

This was the appearance of a man laying by the side of the road, apparently in great agonies.

The gentlemen immediately dismounted to render him all the assistance in their power, and conveyed him speechless to the nearest inn.

Soon as the surgeon attended, he pronounced the wounded man to have been shot, and that it was impossible to extract the ball, as it had penetrated nearly to the heart.

In the space of a little time the sufferer recovered so far as to become sensible, but at the same time exhibited inexpressible tortures both of body and mind.

Orlando

Orlando and Fitzherbert had stole gently into the room, when they soon heard the wretch exclaim—" Oh, conscience! conscience!—Now I feel the intolerable anguish of thy reproaches!"

This was a kind of language that surprised them, and, from motives of humanity, they approached the bed, thinking to bestow some consolation on the unhappy man.

After a few minutes conversation, he exclaimed---" I was, sir, the agent of a certain nobleman, of a cruel and vindictive disposition, and assisted him in his murderous purposes, and at length deprived him of life by administering poison.

" I have also spent the whole of my life in fraud, injustice, and the most cruel outrages; but dire retribution

bution has fastened on me, and I am now reserved for unheard-of torments!"

The two friends stood aghast at such a narrative, and knew not what counsel to give on such an occasion. To their surprise, on attending further to his discourse, they discovered that the wounded man was no other than Judas Flint, the brother of Orlando's tutor, and who had been a principal confederate in the crimes of Lord Horrordale and his successor, Osmond.

Struck with horror, they quitted the room and took their departure, not without, however, giving orders, that the unhappy wretch should be attended with spiritual advice as well as medical assistance.

Upon inquiry some time after, they

they were informed that Judas Flint lay ten days in the most extreme torture, no efforts being sufficient to extract the ball, which had been given him in an attempt to rob a stage coach.

The miserable wretch was said also to have died in the strongest agonies of despair.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER IX.

SWIFT on the wings of love did Orlando and his friend speed their way to Bellgrove Castle.

On their arrival they found Doctor Pritchards in a conference with a stranger, who had just arrived to apprise him of the death of his sister, the maiden lady with whom Monimia had occasionally resided.

The doctor, by this event, found himself in the possession of 18,000l. in

in the funds, together with an annuity of 400l. a year—an acquisition which he immediately presented, as a bridal portion to Monimia.

Great preparations were now making at the castle to celebrate the nuptials of the two friends, and the day was close at hand which was to witness so happy an event.

The baron racked his invention to the utmost to make every thing appear splendid and joyous.

The great hall was fitted up to receive a numerous company of visitors.

The tenants and neighbourhood for miles around had notice of the affair, and were invited to partake of the festivity.

The

The concern of arranging this hospitable intention was committed to Jerry, who, overjoyed at the prospect of his master's happiness, went a little beyond the bounds of his commission.

He even traversed a circuit of nearly twenty miles, extending his benevolence, without regard to the state or condition of the persons he applied to; so that, when the day arrived, the baron was amused with a motley group of figures that he little expected to see—the lame, the halt, the blind, the deaf, and the dumb; all contributed their share towards the hilarity of the day.

This humourous fellow, for his good-nature and readiness to please, was become a great favourite in the family; and the venerable Peter, who was now too infirm to exercise himself

himself as formerly, was glad of such an assistant.

The faithful Peter was at times rather peevish, on account of not being able to execute the commands given with his wonted alacrity; but he need not have given himself a moment's uneasiness on that head, as his master knew how to appreciate the worth of so worthy a domestic.

The baron, on noticing his infirmities, offered to settle a pension on him, with leave to retire, or to reside unemployed in some part of the castle; but business had taken too strong a hold on Peter for him to wish to retire entirely from his old track. He, therefore, humbly entreated the baron to permit him to stay and perform any little services that were yet in his power.

The baron, as may easily be supposed, readily complied, and the faithful old man was delighted with the thoughts of dying in the service of so good a master.

The auspicious morn at length arrived that was to unite the fondest and most faithful hearts.

Monimia and Julia, with palpitating bosoms, took the hands of the respective objects of their affection and advanced towards the chapel, where they were to be united in indissoluble bands.

Their dresses exhibited the most exquisite taste. There was a richness of fancy in the *tout ensemble* that denoted the happiest and most excellent choice, splendid, but not gaudy; elegant, but with no profusion of studied ornaments.

The

The brides conducted themselves with becoming dignity, evincing a firmness of mind, accompanied with the most winning modesty.

The deportment, indeed, of the happy pairs was such as struck all present with admiration.

Every heart was interested in the future happiness of so much worth and merit.

The names of Orlando and Fitzherbert, with their happy brides, resounded with enthusiastic joy throughout the whole fabric, and, after a day devoted to pleasure and the utmost satisfaction, they retired amidst the blessings and congratulations of all present.

Not a little conspicuous was the joy of Fitzherbert's foster parents,

 who

who were invited in terms of the strongest affection, and, at his earnest intreaty, were now to become near associates with the happy folks at the castle.

The following day the baron and baroness, with the doctor and the wedded pairs, resorted to the vicarage, agreeably to a contract between them a few days before, and nothing could surpass the harmony and cordial affection of the lovers, while those around them felt inexpressible happiness in participating of their felicity.

In the course of the week the whole party paid a visit to the merchant, and, to the infinite satisfaction of Orlando and Monimia, no sullen storms appeared now to separate them from their friends.

Both

Both, however, cast a glance at the barn to which they had fled for shelter, and a sigh escaped on recollection of the unfortunate Louisa.

In a little time Fitzherbert intimated his intention of residing at a mansion on one of his estates, which, by his order, had been put in complete repair, and was now ready for his reception.

This was intelligence that cast a damp upon the spirits of their friends; at length it was agreed, that the rest of the company should attend them and make a residence, at least of two months, at his abode.

On a certain day the whole retinue set off from the castle for Hertfordshire, and the uninterrupted happiness which reigned there made the time fly quick.

A separation too soon drew nigh; the parting of Monimia and Julia was affecting; however, they consoled themselves with the promise of alternate visits to each other.

Some weeks after the baron and his party had arrived at the castle, he gave a hint to the doctor, that he thought Monimia's roses began to decline.

The lady seemed disconcerted, but Orlando laughed heartily at the conceit.

It was determined now, that Orlando and his lady should have a suit of apartments in the castle. The baron and baroness, becoming infirm, were very desirous to have their beloved children under the same roof with them.

A pro-

A proposal was made at the same time to Doctor Pritchards to become one at the castle, which, from the love he bore his daughter, and his esteem and affection for his friends, he at length consented to.

In about two months a letter was received from Hertfordshire, wherein Fitzherbert informed his friends, that they had arrived in a very charming air, and that his wife improved so much by it, that she grew lustier every day in consequence.

Orlando insisted upon reading the letter aloud; and, upon looking at the shape of Monimia, exclaimed—"Two of my worthy friends are resolved to countenance each other, I perceive."

Monimia had much ado to withstand the raillery that took place on this intelligence, when some person

coming

coming in afforded her a seasonable relief.

Ten months had now elapsed in the most perfect tranquillity and bliss, when Monimia and Julia presented their doating husbands with an increase of family.

The former brought her fond husband an heir to the estate, and the latter increased the felicity of Fitzherbert by producing a lovely and beautiful girl.

The baron and his lady doated on the young stranger, and were never so happy as when in the act of caressing the little Orlando.

The happiness of Bellgrove and his lady was most assuredly now at the summit; yet, at intervals, it met with an alloy, in the visible decay of the health

health of the baron, which, in a few years, brought him to the last ebb of nature.

He was, however, tranquil and serene in his last moments; saying—"God's will be done, my dear children. I have had a greater share of happiness, in this life, than falls to the general lot of mortals, and resign myself in perfect confidence of seeing you, and all present, in a state of never-ending bliss."

The baroness survived him just a twelvemonth; when she, with calmness, departed, and took the same celestial course.

Orlando, on the demise of his father, became baron Bellgrove, giving a title to his beloved and amiable lady; but neither a title, nor fortune, nor any mundane attraction, could equal the consi-

consideration of her husband's affection, which could not know an increase, at the same time that it never knew an abatement.

The doctor lived many years after this period, and at length quitted this terrestrial paradise, for that endless one above.

In the midst of the regret which this event occasioned the amiable pair at Bellgrove, Fitzherbert and his lady, to their unspeakable consolation, came and resided at a short distance from them, which afforded them inexpressible satisfaction, after the loss each party had sustained.

Little Henry was now become a very promising youth, and his many rising virtues bade fair to render him an ornament to his country; and, appearing to possess an heroic biass, at his own earnest

earnest solicitation, his friends procured him a post of honour under a gallant admiral of their acquaintance.

The two families enjoyed many years a happy intercourse with each other; their felicity was centered in their respective growing offsprings, who daily furnished them with new delights.

In fine, they experienced the highest state of human felicity, the due and certain reward of all who persevere in deeds of honour, virtue, and humanity.

FINIS.

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